

Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council Report 2010

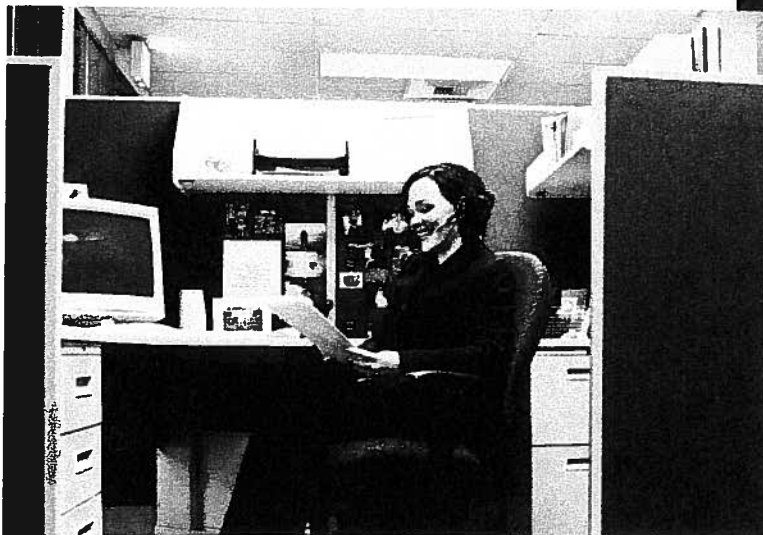
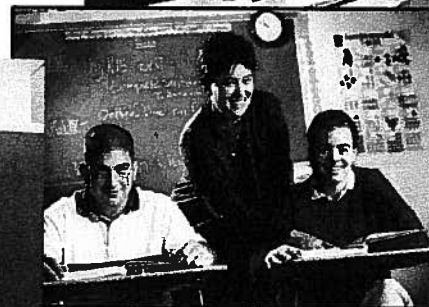
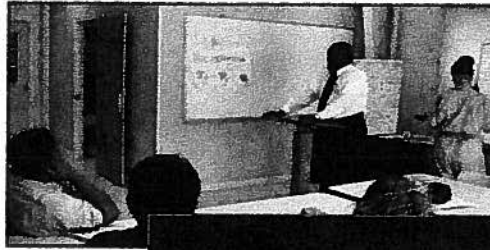


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Governor Bob McDonnell and the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety thank everyone for the months of extensive work by many dedicated individuals. Through Executive Order 11, Governor McDonnell established the Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council. The Council's primary role is to make recommendations to strengthen the prisoner re-entry program in Virginia; increase safety in communities and neighborhoods; and lessen the chances of recidivism. The recommendations, generated through the research, knowledge, and hard work of those involved, are numerous and far-reaching. Implementing comprehensive re-entry strategies is necessary to ensure that the Commonwealth is doing everything possible to assist offenders who have accepted responsibility for their actions and want to become productive members of society. In addition, a by-product of effective re-entry is a reduction in cost to state and local governments, something that is critically important in today's current economic climate.

We appreciate the Council's on-going dedication to this important initiative and look forward to the continued efforts and contributions of everyone involved in the process of developing re-entry policy recommendations. We thank those of you who have provided input and look forward to continuing the work of the Council. This Report reflects an important beginning to a critical statewide approach to re-entry planning and implementation.

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Executive Summary

On May 11, 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell signed Executive Order No. 11 (2010; Appendix A) establishing the *Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council* (the Council). The Council has been tasked with making recommendations to supplement and improve the state re-entry initiatives and to integrate efforts with local agencies, as well as community organizations. Further, the Executive Order requires that the long-term strategic state plan be submitted to the Governor by December 31, 2010.

The Council convened seven work groups and three special focus area committees. Each group met from May until October 2010 (Appendix B). The work groups covered the topics of



Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker addresses the Council

mental health and substance abuse; local/regional jails; offender preparation; health and family reintegration; housing; employment/education/workforce and financial obligations. The focus committees addressed three populations: juveniles, veterans, and women. The issues identified by each of the work groups and focus committees, as well as the recommendations, were reviewed by the Council's Community & Interagency Leadership and Policy Team (Policy Team). A total of 220 recommendations were presented to the Policy Team. After a thorough review, 67 recommendations were presented to the Council for adoption. The Council adopted all 67 recommendations. The Office of the Secretary of Public Safety (OSPS) will work with the Council to move the recommendations adopted by the Governor forward.

In 2009, the federal Second Chance Act established the National Re-Entry Resource Center through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to provide funding for innovative programs and research. In 2010, Virginia agencies received a total of 2.6 million dollars in Second Chance Act grants for re-entry programs. To ensure that these federal funds and services are implemented with focused strategies, the OSPS has partnered with the Council of State Governments and will be receiving technical assistance regarding re-entry best practices in 2011.

Additionally, the OSPS completed a formal inventory of re-entry services currently provided by state agencies and departments. This survey assists in identifying the gaps in services. The findings of this inventory appear in the "Status Report on Offender Transitional and Re-Entry Services," submitted to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on November 15, 2010, in accordance with § 2.2-221.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Consistent with Executive Order No. 11, the OSPS also convened a task force to develop a comprehensive Virginia Adult Re-Entry Initiative (VARI) for the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC). The VARI strategic plan, presented to Governor McDonnell on July 1, 2010, is an ambitious and comprehensive plan that introduces fundamental changes to the current DOC business model. The VARI outlines DOC re-entry programs, and provides a comprehensive unified strategic effort to reduce crime, minimize victimization, and improve public safety through the reduction of recidivism in communities throughout the Commonwealth.

A similar task force was convened within the Department of Juvenile Justice to develop a plan to address re-entry of juvenile offenders. The juvenile re-entry four-year strategic plan has been approved by the Secretary of Public Safety and is expected to be presented to the Governor and the Council in 2011.

This report summarizes the recommendations of the Council, as well as the VARI re-entry strategic plan; findings from the needs assessment; and relevant statistics related to the issues at hand. The Report also outlines identified challenges relating to the re-entry of adult offenders in Virginia. The juvenile re-entry plan will be fully captured in greater detail in the 2011 report.

While the list of recommendations in this first report is lengthy, the discussions and additional items for consideration within each work group and focus group were much more extensive. In 2011, each of the work groups and focus groups will continue to meet to monitor progress on current recommendations, as well as explore feasibility of other recommendations.

The first year of the Re-Entry Council represents considerable work by many dedicated individuals. The entire group should be proud of the progress we have made in 2010. Special thanks go out to all of the staff who helped make these results possible. Much is left to be done, and although there is great momentum, the ultimate success of the re-entry initiative depends upon the work done over the years to come. Virginia is well on its way to becoming a national model in re-entry planning. My congratulations to all of those who have made this important progress possible.

Marla Graff Decker
Secretary of Public Safety

Background

Public safety is the top priority of government. A cornerstone of Governor McDonnell's public safety initiative is to reduce victimization; improve outcomes for offenders returning to their communities; and produce a favorable impact on recidivism by strengthening the Commonwealth's prisoner re-entry program. More effective re-entry also reduces costs to state and local governments as well as the taxpayer. On May 11, 2010, Governor McDonnell signed Executive Order No. 11 (Appendix A) establishing the *Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council* (the Council). The Governor tasked the members with developing recommendations for collaborative re-entry strategies. (Illustration 1, located after the appendices, shows the Virginia Re-Entry Structure). Under the direction of Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker, the Re-Entry Council is directed to: (1) identify barriers to re-entry; (2) establish and improve collaboration and coordination among the efforts of re-entry stakeholders; (3) engage non-profit, locality, and faith-based programs in the community; and (4) improve business and community college partnerships to provide more educational and employment opportunities for released offenders. In addition, the Re-Entry Council and Prisoner Re-Entry Coordinator were directed to collaborate in the development of a re-entry strategic plan for Virginia. The Re-Entry Council is comprised of stakeholders from nearly every Secretariat in the Governor's Cabinet, legislators, and representatives of multiple agencies under each Secretary. Members of faith-based communities, non-profit organizations, and victims' associations were also invited to participate.

The full Council met on July 9, August 26 and November 8, 2010. Additionally, the Council was supported by seven work groups and three focus committees. The Work Groups are: (1) Offender Preparation; (2) Housing; (3) Employment, Education and Workforce; (4) Mental Health and Substance Abuse; (5) Local and Regional Jails; (6) Financial Obligations; and (7) Health and Family Reintegration. The focus committees target three populations of offenders: (1) Juveniles; (2) Veterans; and (3) Women. Each of the work groups and special focus area committees met from May through October 2010. The purpose, make-up, and charges of the Council, work groups and focus groups may be found in Appendix B.



Governor Robert F. McDonnell, Sheriff Michael Wade and other public officials at the Henrico County Jail

The issues identified by each of the work groups and focus committees, as well as the recommendations, were reviewed by the Council's Community & Interagency Leadership and Policy Team (Policy Team). All of the proposed recommendations of the committees and work groups were fully considered and analyzed by the Policy Team. That group submitted a significant number of these recommendations to the Re-Entry Council. There were 220 recommendations from the various work groups. After a thorough review of all recommendations, the Policy Team presented 67 recommendations to the full Council on

November 8, 2010 (Appendix C). The final recommendations to the Council contain critical recommendations that will enable the Commonwealth to initiate a statewide re-entry initiative that is consistent with economic limitations and agency resources. Difficult decisions were made and recommendations were prioritized due to the overwhelming number of ideas and the diversity of the proposals from the many work groups. The Policy Team worked diligently to strike a balance and submitted as many recommendations as manageable and logical for the first year of the Council. Several recommendations were not presented and were tabled for further development and discussion in the second year of the Council.

The full Council approved all of the recommendations that appear in this report. All work groups and focus groups, except for the Financial Obligations Work Group, have identified at least one issue and subsequent recommendation that will be addressed in 2011. The OSPS will be working with the Council, state agencies, legislators, and many other partners to enact these recommendations over the coming years. The Financial Obligations Work Group will continue to meet and develop the identified issues and recommendations that need further investigation and refinement.

Extent of the Issue

When an individual serves a criminal sentence in a secure facility, reintegrating into the community carries with it a multitude of potential obstacles, including not falling back into the behavior that caused the offender to engage in the criminal behavior that resulted in incarceration. The Council of State Governments Justice Center has a Re-Entry Policy Council that has released a report that identifies the issues that should be addressed for best practices in re-entry programming.¹ Virginia's Re-Entry Council and Work Groups parallel these recommendations.

In Virginia, approximately 293,000 adults are arrested each year.² Across the Commonwealth, approximately 20,000 individuals are admitted to jail each month. Approximately the same number of individuals is released from jail each month.³ All individuals who are serving a local sentence in jails will be released and returned to the community. Some adults may serve consecutive year-long sentences in a local jail. However, the vast majority of adults who are convicted and receive a sentence of a year or more are transferred to the state prison system, the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC). The average state prison sentence is 45 months long, and over 90% of offenders are eventually released back into communities.⁴ Only 10% of incarcerated individuals will spend their lives in prison. As of June 2010, 37,300 state-responsible offenders were incarcerated in DOC prisons or in local jails. Further, 60,773 individuals are supervised by DOC in the community on probation or parole. Each year, 33% of the incarcerated felons – over 13,000 state-responsible offenders – complete their sentences and return to communities.⁴

DOC has excelled in promoting public safety, as demonstrated by its top national safety rating compared with other states. In Virginia, the DOC has a low prison escape rate and low incidents of offender and staff assaults. The DOC's Division of Community Corrections is ranked eighth in the nation for its supervision completion rate, with 72% of offenders being successfully discharged from probation, parole, or post-release supervision.⁵

Additionally, the DOC recidivism rate is low compared with other states. In the most recent



Mike Wright, Chief Probation and Parole Officer, District 1, Richmond, addressing the Council

¹ Report of the Re-Entry Policy Council: Charting the Safe and Successful Return of Prisoners to the Community. Council of State Governments. Re-Entry Policy Council. New York: Council of State Governments. January 2005. <http://re-entrypolicy.org/Report/TOC>

² Virginia State Police Data 2006-2009; numbers were averaged for stability. www.vsp.state.va.us/downloads/CJIS_Division_Newsletter_July-2010.pdf, accessed 11/18/2010.

³ Virginia's Peculiar System of Local and Regional Jails. Spring 2010. www.dcjs.virginia.gov, accessed 11/18/2010. <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/research/documents/2010%20JailReport-2.pdf>

⁴ DOC State Responsible Offender Population Trends FY 2005-2009. Research & Management Services. November, 2010.

⁵ Virginia Office of the Secretary of Public Safety. Status Report on Offender Transitional and Re-Entry Services. November 15, 2010. Unpublished report.

comparison among the 38 states that report felon recidivism as re-imprisonment within three years of release, Virginia ties for the sixth lowest recidivism rate of 28.3%.⁶ However the most recent 3-year recidivism rate is 27.3%.⁷ Although Virginia can be proud of this accomplishment, it also means that over a three-year period more than 10,000 offenders recidivate, either because they have committed new crimes or because they have failed to comply with the conditions of probation or parole supervision. This number represents new victims; higher taxpayer costs associated with police and court processes and re-incarceration; unsupported families on public assistance; and other negative social implications.

At the state level, during 2010, and as part of this re-entry initiative, DOC has completed a review of its processes, policies, and systems. The DOC has also developed an ambitious four-year strategic plan focused on re-entry. Utilizing recommendations and research from respected sources, including the National Institute of Corrections, the Virginia Adult Re-Entry Initiative (VARI) Strategic Plan outlines eight values and principles, seven over-arching goals and more than 120 recommendations about systems-transforming programs, policies, and practices. This plan is intended to strengthen public safety by increasing the successfulness of those who come in contact with DOC and are interested in becoming positive and productive citizens when they return to Virginia communities.

Local and regional jails work collaboratively in transferring pre-trial and convicted individuals between facilities, as well as housing state and federal inmates. All jails input data about those they house into the statewide Local Inmate Data System (LIDS). This system enables Virginia to track statewide numbers relating to individuals who are being served by jails. Local and regional jails, however, have a great deal of autonomy when it comes to programming offered within each facility. Unfortunately, much less is known about the statewide recidivism rates for individuals who have been detained in jails. The Local/Regional Jails Work Group continues to meet, seek information, and make recommendations. However, the autonomy of local and regional jails precludes making a similar “system-wide” plan for non-state inmates housed in jails across the Commonwealth. Thus, included in this report are the approved recommendations of the Council relating to state-responsible inmates, coupled with what will be addressed by the VARI Strategic Plan.

⁶ Kern, R. (2008) Three-year Re-incarceration Rate by State. Virginia Sentencing Commission. Unpublished report.

⁷ Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services (2011).

What is Being Done

A full list of the issues identified by each work group, as well as recommendations for 2011 may be found in Appendix C. This section outlines services that are currently available, as well as work that is in progress.

The Offender Preparation Work Group

Best practice in offender re-entry indicates that communication across systems is essential.⁸ For example, findings from assessments conducted while a person is incarcerated must be communicated to community-based parole and probation officers. Communication is a challenge in a large agency such as DOC with 85 separate Probation and Parole (P&P) Districts and prisons located across the Commonwealth. The VARI puts state-wide communication systems in place. This will improve communication relating to offender re-entry by establishing a primary contact for re-entry within each Community Corrections operational unit and each prison facility (Illustrations 2, 3, 4 & 5). In addition, historically, each DOC division has had separate automated offender information systems that did not interface with each other. This created natural communication barriers among divisions. DOC is currently implementing an agency-wide automated Correctional Offender Information System (VACORIS). This will allow DOC professionals across settings, in institutions, and in the community the opportunity to create a VACORIS screen that pulls together all pertinent information relevant to re-entry about an offender. In this manner, all DOC professionals involved with any given individual can build upon and share assessment results, on-going planning and tracking tools rather than having to re-create documentation across professional settings. This system should improve the efficiency of staff time, as well as decrease the potential for the loss of information as individuals move between settings.

Best practice in offender re-entry calls for preparation for re-entry beginning at the time of commitment.⁷ At reception to prison, traditional medical and mental health assessments are completed; for general recidivism risk and programming needs the process has been mainly a subjective staff review of file information. A common assessment or case plan has not been used, making continuity of care challenging. As outlined in the VARI, the agency-wide implementation of the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) assessment tool is an



Department of Correctional Education instructor records practice interview sessions

⁷ Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services (2011).

⁸ Report of the Re-Entry Policy Council: Charting the Safe and Successful Return of Prisoners to the Community. Council of State Governments. Re-Entry Policy Council. New York: Council of State Governments. January 2005. <http://re-entrypolicy.org/Report/TOC>

essential step in DOC's efforts to utilize an evidenced-based assessment of risk for recidivism and to identify criminogenic needs of offenders. The VARI plan delineates the schedule of assessment and updates for inmates with life sentences; those with more than five years or more remaining in their sentence; and those with five years or less remaining. Current efforts are underway to make the COMPAS assessment accessible screen(s) available in the VACORIS DOC-system-wide computer system, so that assessment results and plans may be utilized by DOC professionals throughout the facility-to-community transition.

The DOC prison system is comprised of five prison security levels and one segregation facility. The prison security levels range from low levels, where offenders participate in farm or highway work, through medium security dormitory prisons, to high security single-celled environments where offender movement inside the prison is tightly controlled. Criteria for determining security level assignment are based on the review of many factors and administration of a validated prison classification tool. Factors considered include length of the offender's sentence, type of crime (non-violent, violent, sex offense), institutional behavior record (misconduct, assaults, and escape attempts), special needs (medical and mental health services) and program needs. The VARI outlines the policies and programs that are being instituted so that inmates in higher security facilities may be reviewed for transfer to lower security facilities and so that they may take part in intensive re-entry programming before release (Illustration 4).

The VARI outlines a consistent re-entry programming track throughout the continuum of correctional supervision, including research-based programming and services that motivate offenders to become responsible for and engaged in their own re-entry preparation. The outcome goals for programming listed in the VARI are: 1) recidivism reduction; 2) improving or maintaining positive institutional behavior; and 3) measurable progress on specific needs identified in the Risk and Needs Assessment. The VARI outlines implementing the evidence-based 22-session Thinking for a Change program, coupled with ongoing bi-weekly peer support groups for all inmates. In addition, weekly peer support groups will be held in all probation and parole districts to provide continuity for individuals who have returned to the community. Also outlined in the VARI are other supplemental educational and training services to motivate offenders to take responsibility for and participate in their own process of change. The VARI outlines programs and practices that strengthen re-entry preparation and support by involving family members, faith-based organizations and other mentors throughout the continuum of correctional supervision. Different levels of family or mentor involvement may be required at different points during correctional supervision in partnership with local re-entry councils.

A special inmate population that may require different services when returning to communities is identified gang members. The DOC has a Gang Unit that serves both the Division of Community Corrections and the Division of Operations. The Gang Unit works with Gang Specialists located in prisons and P&P Districts to identify gang members and gang activity. Approximately 15% of inmates in DOC are confirmed gang members.⁹ The DOC Gang Unit participates in a state-level Gang Task Force. The VARI outlines that during the reception process, all inmates will receive training on the importance of avoiding gangs.

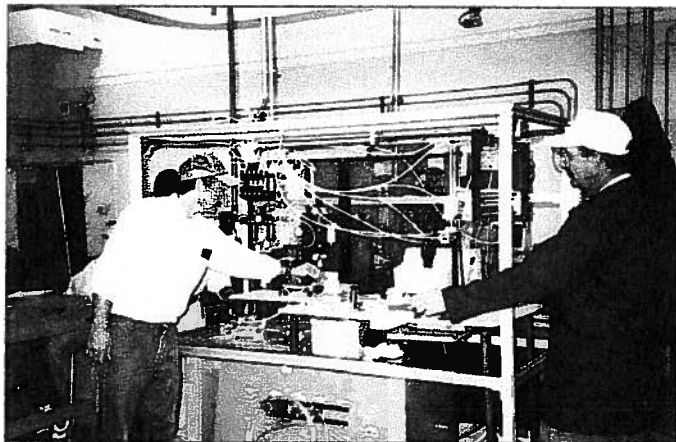
The body of literature indicating the critical nature of employment to offenders' post-release success is extensive. DOC/Department of Correctional Education (DCE) employs Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) instructors that serve 24 correctional facilities. Their primary function is to help prepare incarcerated jobseekers for employment upon

⁹ DOC. Quarterly Report for the Governor and General Assembly – CY2010.

release from prison. DOC/DCE will utilize these staff in establishing “First Stop Re-Entry Employment Centers” in Virginia’s correctional facilities. Developing these centers will require almost no new resources. The centers will also enable offenders to register with the Virginia Workforce Connection and utilize this resource to perform real job searches and post offenders’ resumes on-line, thereby making employers aware of their skills. The majority of offenders, however, are released from prison to the community without marketable job skills. DOC will review its prison work programs and identify skills that can be formally recognized through certificate programs or apprenticeships. DOC’s Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE) work programs enrolled 1,296 inmates in the first quarter of FY2011.

In DCE programming, FY 2008-2009:

- 5,000 participated in Productive Citizenship classes. 429 participated in programs in collaboration with VA Community College System (VCCS) (with 87% successfully completing coursework).
- 7,827 have been assessed within the Career Readiness Certificate program.
- 4,647 were enrolled in Career & Technology Education (CTE) coursework.
- 8,498 were enrolled in Adult Basic Education.
- 1,559 received GED testing with 1,131 passing and receiving the credential. DCE GED students pass the test at a rate of 73.8%; the rate within the state as a whole is 68.2%.¹⁰



Several areas of training in industrial arts are provided to inmates

In the decade from 1998 to 2008, DCE has improved its efficiency in inmates completing the CTE from 366 days to 264 days, allowing more inmates to participate. However, demand for programming exceeds capacity and budget cuts during the past year have decreased DCE’s capacity by another 11%.⁹

State-issued identification is required to obtain employment in the community. In addition, the ability to drive is often a needed ability to commute to a worksite. In VARI, Phase I of the re-entry process indicates that inmates will have access to on-line DMV test

preparation. DOC staff have met with DMV staff and begun to develop a process whereby inmates may obtain a DMV ID.

One formal offender preparation re-entry program in place is the Virginia Community Re-Entry Initiative (VCRI), which integrates human services with public safety in meeting the needs of offenders returning to the community. VCRI is facilitated by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Currently there are seven re-entry councils representing 30 Virginia localities. In FY 2009-2010, over 2,000 individuals returning to communities were served.⁹ The local re-entry councils have been implemented with the following partners:

¹⁰ Office of the Secretary of Public Safety. Status report on offender transitional and re-entry services. November 15, 2010. Unpublished report.

Norfolk	Greensville Correctional Center & Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women
Greensville-Emporia	Greensville Correctional Center
Culpeper	Coffeewood Correctional Center & Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women
King George and the Fredericksburg area	Haynesville Correctional Center
Richmond	Powhatan Correctional Center & Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women
Charlottesville/Albemarle	local jail partners
Southwest Virginia	local jail partners

The VARI outlines a plan to help offenders save a portion of the funds they acquire during incarceration as necessary to support their immediate financial re-entry needs, including housing, food, clothing, job seeking activities, and other costs of living in the community. The Re-Entry Savings Plan also helps offenders learn the responsible behavior and habit of budgeting and saving a portion of their income in preparation for re-entry. Legislation is required so that a Re-Entry Savings Plans program can be enacted by DOC.

The Housing Work Group

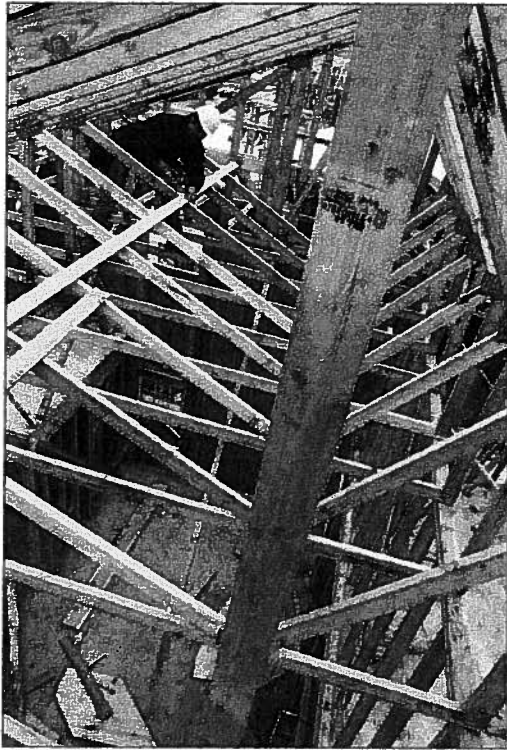
When an individual is released from incarceration he/she has an immediate need for food and shelter. For some, family members will provide these immediate needs. For a variety of reasons, however, family members are not available to assist many individuals. Studies indicate that recent homelessness is 7.5 to 11.3 times more common among jail inmates than in the general population.¹¹ Virginia currently does not track homeless status prior to admission. Expected residence/homelessness upon release has been added to the new DOC VACORIS system to be tracked for state-involved inmates in the future.

The Re-Entry Council will work to support the efforts of the Governor's Homeless Advisory Council. Executive Order No. 10 (2010) created the Housing Policy Framework of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Governor McDonnell mandated that a consistent housing policy be developed for the Commonwealth to address homelessness. As a result, DOC convened a discharge sub-committee to examine housing issues as they relate to the institutionalized person in an effort to reduce homelessness. The VARI outlines the use of the DOC re-entry specialist during Phase II of the re-entry process to assist with transitional housing for sub-populations of re-entering offenders that may be difficult to place, i.e., violent and sexual offenders (Illustration 2).

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers the Pre- and Post-Incarceration Services programs (PAPIS) that provide housing, clothing, and employment assistance through various community-based organizations. Nine programs currently exist: Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center (Winchester); Colonial Community Corrections (Williamsburg); Northern Neck Regional Adult Detention Center (Westmoreland); OAR-Arlington; OAR-Fairfax; OAR-Jefferson Area; OAR-Richmond; STEP-UP (Norfolk); and Virginia CARES (state-wide). These programs

¹¹ Greenburg, G.A. & Rosenhack, R.A. (2008). Jail incarceration, homelessness, and mental health: a national study. *Psychiatric Services*, Feb; 59(2), 170-177.

served 20,682 individuals in FY2010, with 15% fewer funds than the previous year due to budget cuts.¹²



**Housing provides opportunities
for shelter and employment**

The "One Strike" Policy, enacted as part of the Housing Opportunity Extension Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-120; 110 Stat. 834), allows Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to evict or refuse to house people whose friends, relatives or any guests or visitors under their direct control are suspected of using drugs. This policy may be applied even if the suspect was not arrested in the tenant's home, the charges were dropped, or the suspect was found innocent ("Entitlements of Tenants to Occupancy," 24 CFR 247.3). The HUD regulations provide both directives and guidelines to PHAs for their policies for screening and admission, as well as for eviction or termination of assistance, with regard to criminal histories, criminal activity, and drug involvement. A small number of these directives dictate mandatory actions by PHAs, but many provide PHAs with substantial discretionary authority; blanket exclusions for all individuals with histories of criminal and/or drug activities are not required by the federal regulations. While PHAs admission policies are clearly bound by federal law, discretion exists for PHAs to house people with histories of incarceration based on individual circumstances. The Re-Entry Housing Work Group will be making an educational presentation to the officers of the Virginia Association of Housing and

Community Development (VAHCDO) at its January 2011 meeting regarding Virginia Public Housing Authority's (VPHA) utilization of discretion in carrying out the "One Strike" Policy on a case-by-case basis. The presentation will address the impact of the "One Strike" Policy, as currently implemented, on re-entry of offenders and the unintended consequences. These consequences include the prevention of family unification and the reduction of public housing options for adjudicated juveniles.

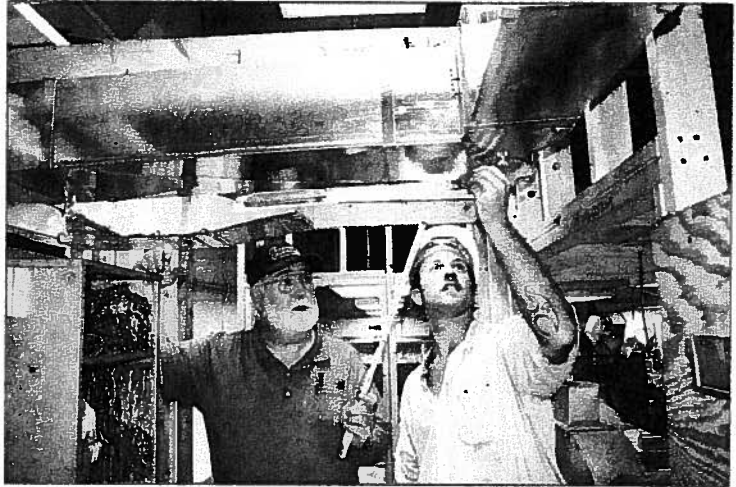
The Employment/Education/Workforce Work Group

Employment, which affords an individual to meet his/her needs for food, clothing, and shelter, as well as attending to physical and mental health needs, is imperative for long-term success in the community. Stable employment is one of the best predictors of post-release success.¹³ Employability is often linked to educational attainment and/or training. Compared to the general population, individuals who are incarcerated have often attained less formal education. The most recent federal numbers indicate that 18% of the general population over the age of 18 had not completed the 12th grade; whereas 39.7% of state inmates and 46.5% of local

¹² Office of the Secretary of Public Safety. Status report on offender transitional and re-entry services. November 15, 2010. Unpublished report.

¹³ Visher, C.A., Winterfield, L., & Coggeshall, M.B. (2005). Ex-offender employment programs and recidivism: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1(3), 295-316.

jail inmates had not completed the 12th grade.¹⁴ That same report indicates that 48.4% of the general population over the age of 18 had some postsecondary education. However, for those in state custody only 11.4% and 13.5% of those in local jails had any postsecondary education attainment.¹³ Data from DOC parallel these findings. For inmates in state custody, 35.74% self-reported ending their formal education before the 12th grade; 24.4% self-reported having a high school diploma or GED; and, 5.58% had postsecondary education.¹⁵ Receiving educational and vocational training while incarcerated does happen; more so in state prisons than in local jails where the population is more transitional. Nationally from 1991 to 1997, the number of inmates who reported participating in an educational program since admission rose from 402,500 to 550,000.¹³ However, the total incarcerated population also rose during this same time. Thus, the percent of inmates who were able to participate fell from 57% in 1991 to 52% in 1997.¹³ Participation in education and/or vocational programs while incarcerated has been linked to lower recidivism.^{16,17,18}



Participation in education and vocational programs while incarcerated has been linked to lower recidivism

As outlined in the previous section, DOC & DCE are both exploring ways to increase the number of inmates who receive educational and vocational training while incarcerated. DCE has received several grants for FY 2010-2011 and will implement programming with DOC, DJJ, VCCS, Goodwill Industries, and Southside Virginia Community College. The VARI outlines policies and practices regarding security placement and transfers that will be implemented to maximize an individual's ability to complete educational and training opportunities while incarcerated. In addition, the VARI outlines policy and procedural changes to facilitate the expansion of work release opportunities for state inmates while keeping safety and security in mind.

DCE collaborates with the VCCS on the Workplace and Community Transition Training; the Concurrent Enrollment Program; the Virginia Education Wizard; and the Career Readiness Certificate Program. DCE and DJJ partner on the Juvenile Correctional Centers College Program; the Re-Entry to Education and Employment Program; and, along with DOE, the Re-enrollment of Students Committed to DJJ programs. In 1996, DCE, DJJ, and the U.S.

¹⁴ Harlow, C.W. (2003). Education and Correctional Populations. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report (Report No. NCJ-195670). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

¹⁵ Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services, RMS Inmate Data File, 12/03/2010. Note: 34.2% of inmates declined to identify their educational attainment.

¹⁶ Quinn, . (2005). The impact of vocational and educational programs on recidivism: a meta-analysis. American Society of Criminology, Conference Papers, 2005 Annual Meeting, Toronto.

¹⁷ Harer, M. (1994). Recidivism among federal prisoners released in 1987. Washington, D.C.; Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice.

¹⁸ Steurer, S., Smith, L., & Tracy, A. (2001). Three state recidivism study. Lanham, MD: Correctional Education Association.

Department of Labor created the Youth Industries Program in to provide youth with meaningful opportunities to learn and practice employability skills while incarcerated. DCE works with the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) to facilitate the licensure of inmates in apprenticeship programs, including barbers and cosmetologists, water and waterworks operators, opticians, HVAC repair, electricians, and plumbers.

Potential employers are often hesitant to hire returning offenders due to the potential risk of loss. The Federal government, through a private insurance company, has established a federal bonding program from which bonds for high-risk employees may be purchased at minimal cost. Currently, job developers (both state supported and non-profits) throughout Virginia may offer bonding for ex-offenders they place in a job. However, most choose not to do so for a multitude of reasons (e.g., knowledge of how to buy them, minimum purchase requirements, limited funds with which to do this). At one time, Virginia participated in the Federal Bonding Program but ended this practice in 1997. Virginia does not currently have a centralized State Bonding Coordinator, thus Federal Fidelity Bonding is not utilized as a hiring incentive for employers in most Virginia localities. A work group has been established as the agent of the Virginia Workforce Council, DBA, DCE, DOC, and DJJ to study development of a pilot bonding program and make recommendations to the Secretaries of Public Safety and Commerce and Trade.

The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Work Group

More inmates meet the diagnostic criteria for substance abuse and other mental health issues than the general public. National survey data indicate that 53% of state-level inmates meet the diagnostic criteria for drug abuse or dependence.¹⁹ DOC captures these statistics differently than the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, by substance ‘use’ rather than diagnostic category. DOC data indicate that 19% of inmates report ‘moderate use’ of drugs. An additional 22% report ‘heavy use’ of drugs. Further, an additional 5% are assigned to or targeted for the therapeutic community, although alcohol and drug use status is unknown. These three categories total 46%—approaching what the national numbers indicate. DOC data indicate that only 3% of inmates report not using drugs; use is ‘not reported’ for 16%; and an additional 25% are listed as “extent unknown.”²⁰

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) in incarcerated populations typically includes the diagnoses of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorders, and major depressive disorders. One analysis of prevalence studies found 12-month rates for SMI in incarcerated populations of 15% (range 8-36%) compared with 0.7% for schizophrenia and 1% for bipolar disorder in the general population.²¹ DOC statistics indicate that 22.3% of state-level inmates have a history of receiving mental health treatment services (inpatient, outpatient, or both).¹⁹ However, DOC data indicate that 13.5% of inmates hold a mental health status of ‘mild, moderate or severe impairment,’ with 80.1% having ‘no history or evidence of impairment.’²²

¹⁹ Mumola, C.J. & Karberg, J.C. (2006). Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal prisoners, 2004, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report. NCJ213530.

²⁰ Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services, RMS Inmate Data File, 12/03/2010. Note: 34.2% of inmates declined to identify their educational attainment.

²¹ Pinta, E.R. (2001). The prevalence of serious mental disorders among U.S. prisoners. In G. Landsberg & A. Smiley (Eds.), Forensic mental health: Working with offenders with mental illness. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute. pp 12-1 – 12-10.

²² Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services, RMS Inmate Data File, 12/03/2010. Note: 34.2% of inmates declined to identify their educational attainment.

Incarceration-based therapeutic communities and residential substance abuse treatment programs have been shown to reduce recidivism.²³ Discharge planning and linking inmates with mental illness to community resources, including medication maintenance, has been shown to lower the probability of re-arrest, as well as extend the time prior to re-arrest.^{24,25}

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) works collaboratively with DCJS to provide training on Community Cross Systems Mapping. This training includes the interface of criminal justice and mental health when assisting individuals in the community, as well as Crisis Intervention Team training for first responders who are likely to face individuals with mental health issues. DOC has an agreement with DBHDS and the Association of Community Services Boards to address re-entry appointments for inmates with continuing mental health needs after their release. Many local P&P districts also have agreements with local CSBs to meet treatment needs of offenders who are released into the community. The Indigent Defense Commission (IDC) works with local public defenders, DSS, DCJS, and DOC to meet the special needs, including alternative sentencing and/or programming for individuals with mental illness or substance abuse. This service is available in Lynchburg, Central Virginia, Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, Page, Shenandoah and Warren, Martinsville, Danville, and Alexandria. In addition, peer services are not widely utilized for criminal justice-involved populations. Successful initiatives utilizing peer services in Virginia include Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs) for individuals with mental health or co-occurring substance use disorders. WRAPs are currently operating with the Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck CSB and the New River Valley Bridge Program.

In response to a recommendation of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Work Group, a request has been made for \$150,000 to implement one additional pilot site to replicate the Alexandria CSB/Probation & Parole Partnership Program. In less than two years of operation, this program has had a significant impact in reducing recidivism, engaging and retaining clients in services, and maintaining clients in community settings. Reductions in arrest and incarceration appear to produce significant savings for the criminal justice system. The offenders placed in this program are state-responsible offenders. A request for funding has also been made for three additional Forensic Discharge Planner positions to coordinate linkage to services and supports. Properly trained and equipped MH/SA case managers employed by local Community Service Boards (CSBs) or DOC who are located within reasonable access to DOC and jail facilities provide the most effective linkage resources. DOC currently utilizes a number of such positions to provide case management at the local jails to provide linkage to services. Throughout Virginia there are several examples of CSB-employed Forensic Discharge Planners working in partnership with local jails and CSBs (Alexandria, Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Hampton/Newport News, Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck, New River Valley, RACSB, and Virginia Beach). These positions are supported through DBHDS General Fund allocations for jail diversion or transformation funds and have proven successful in creating successful linkage to services. However, there are not enough positions currently in place to meet the needs of all those re-entering communities with on-going chronic mental illness.

²³ Mithell, O., Wilson, D.B., & MacKenzie, D.L. (2007). Does incarceration-based drug treatment reduce recidivism? A meta-analytic synthesis of the research. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, Vol.3(4), p.353-375.

²⁴ Ventura, L., Cassel, C., Jacoby, J., & Huang, B. (1998). Case management and recidivism of mentally ill persons released from jail. *Psychiatric Services*, 49 (10), 1330-1337.

²⁵ Dincin, J. Lurigio, A., Fallon, J., & Clay, R. (2003). Preventing re-arrests of mentally ill persons released from jail: Jail program study fact sheet. Chicago: Thresholds Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centers.

The Local/Regional Jails Work Group

The jails recognize the importance of re-entry in their operations and many require funding to secure transition/re-entry staff. The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), in conjunction with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, Virginia Association of Regional Jails, and the Compensation Board, will be studying the fiscal impact of placing additional re-entry staff in local and regional jails.

DCJS works with the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association (VCCJA) on evidenced-based practice issues specific to local probation and pre-trial services. DCJS has provided the research to drive the development of bail/release recommendation guidelines. DCJS has also developed the case classification and differential supervision guidelines for pretrial and local probation, as well as validated the Offender Screening Tool and Modified Offender Screening Tool for the population on local probation; and upgraded the Pretrial and Community Corrections (PTCC) case management system to capture data needed for evaluation.



One of many excellent and varied re-entry services being conducted at a local jail facility

The work group requested that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Work Group review the 2010 Mental Illness in Jail Report, prepared by the Compensation Board, in order to identify re-entry-related issues to be considered in 2011 and 2012. This request was filed with the Governor, the Director of the DPB, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees on November 1, 2010.

The Health and Family Reintegration Work Group

It is estimated that each year, 33% of all persons infected with hepatitis C pass through the correctional system, as do 25% of HIV-positive Americans and 40% of active tuberculosis cases.²⁶ Residing in a correctional or long-term care facility is a known risk factor for contracting TB.²⁷ The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the general population is 0.36%.²⁸ The rates in Virginia's prisons is fourfold; 1.5% of female inmates and 1.3% of male inmates.²⁹ DOC statistics indicate that 33.4% of inmates have a chronic medical condition.³⁰ When the chronic health care needs of parolees are addressed, they seem to be more likely to comply with the requirements of their parole. In 2004, it was reported that there was a 36.5% re-incarceration rate when health care

²⁶ Hammett, T.M., Harmon, M.P., & Rhodes, W. (2002). The burden of infectious disease among inmates of and releases from US correctional facilities, 1997. American Journal of Public Health, 92 (11): 1789-1794.

²⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2006 Disease profile, 2008: 44.

²⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2008). New estimates of U.S. HIV Prevalence, 2006. Vol. 18. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv>.

²⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, HIV in Prisons, 2007-2008, NCJ 228307, p.8.

³⁰ Statistics compiled by Virginia DOC Research & Management Services, RMS Inmate Data File, 12/03/2010. Note: 34.2% of inmates declined to identify their educational attainment.

needs were actively addressed compared to a national average of 51.8%,³¹ suggesting that case management coupled with adequately addressing health care concerns may reduce recidivism.³²

VDH works with DOC on the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages program (CHARLI) which provides pre- and post-release prevention and education. In addition, VDH, DOC and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) offer the Bridge Program for those known to be HIV positive to provide seamless on-going medical services post-release. For medically eligible offenders, VDH works with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide screening and placement for nursing home care.

Research shows that strong relationships between offenders and families result in better offender outcome.³³ For many, reintegrating with a community also entails reintegrating into a family unit with their dependent children. In a national survey of state-level inmates, 55% of those in custody indicated they had children under the age of 18.³⁴ Results from this survey also indicated that more mothers were living with their children at the time of admission (64.3%) than fathers (43.8%). Virginia currently does not track parenting status at the state or local levels.

The VARI outlines programs, policies, and practices to increase familial involvement throughout incarceration to ensure that support is maintained for inmates having the full range of time to serve, as well as during Phase I and Phase II of re-entry. DOC is currently updating the existing DOC Family and Visitor Information Guide so that it provides current, comprehensive information on prison rules, procedures, and visitation practices to reduce barriers between DOC and family members. The Family and Visitor Information Guide is currently offered only on-line, creating difficulties for families without Internet access. Efforts are already underway to create and distribute printed copies. DCE partners with VCU in developing and continuing to implement, in a small number of DOC facilities, the Parenting Children of Promise program that teaches parenting skills to inmates.

The Juvenile Area Focus Committee

DJJ has developed a 4-year strategic plan focusing on re-entry. Currently, the agency has no designated funding source to access for community-based pre-release treatment or for reimbursement of the providers' travel costs. DJJ has identified limited funding to provide pre-release services to the highest-risk residents. The unavailability of funding impacts the ability for community-based providers to begin services during commitment on a regular basis. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) within the Department of Labor encourages states and localities to focus services on the eligible youth most in need, to include youth offenders. An example of this strategy is the Re-Entry to Education and Employment Project (REEP), a pilot initiative involving DJJ, the VCCS, the Youth Workforce System, the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development, Thomas Nelson Community College, and local employers. REEP can be easily replicated within other jurisdictions across the state.

³¹ Conklin, T.J. (2004). A public health model of care for corrections. *Corrections Today*, 66(6), 120-122.

³² Gietzen, J.W., Van Atta, J.K., & Hough, J. (2008). Self-reported prevalence of medical conditions within a correctional population. *Corrections Compendium*, Nov/Dec.

³³ diZerega, M. (2010). Engaging offenders' families in re-entry. Coaching Packet. M.M. Carter & R. Giguere (Eds.) Center for Effective Public Policy. <http://www.cepp.com/documents/Engaging%20Offenders%20Families%20in%20Re-Entry.pdf>

³⁴ Mumla, C.J. (2000). *Incarcerated parents and their children*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report (Report No. NCJ-182335). Washington, D.C. : U.S. Department of Justice

The Veterans Area Focus Committee

There are 2,391 veterans currently incarcerated within the DOC.³⁵ This is less than the national number as the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that 10% of state-held inmates indicated prior military service.³⁶ There are no official estimates as to the number of military veterans who are held in local jails. Responses to a national survey of inmates in state custody indicated that 54% of veterans served during wartime, while only 20% saw combat duty.³⁵ Responses to this same survey showed that nearly equal percentages of veteran vs. non-veteran inmates met the diagnostic criteria of alcohol abuse or dependence during the 12 months prior to admission (43% for veterans; 44% for non-veterans). Nearly equal percentages met one or two criteria for a recent mental health problem (54% of veterans vs. 56% of non-veterans). Veterans were less likely to meet diagnostic criteria for abuse or dependence on illicit drugs (43% veterans vs. 55% nonveterans). However, veterans were more likely to report having accessed mental health services (30% of veterans vs. 24% of nonveterans).³⁵

Officials within DOC may not be advised that an offender is a veteran, which leads to an inability to identify possible treatment and resources for that offender. The Department of Veteran Services (DVS) Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) provides statewide and regional training to medical and mental health professionals to help them recognize the signs and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Medical and mental health staff at DOC facilities are encouraged to take advantage of these training opportunities. This facilitates the development of professional relationships with the justice outreach staff, as well as the medical and mental health staff of the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Centers closest to their facilities. The intent is to bring in the expertise of the VA Medical Center to the DOC medical and mental health professionals. DOC will look for opportunities to provide veteran-specific training to medical and mental health staff at the facilities.



Re-Entry programs aim to assist all offenders in obtaining employment

Currently, there is lack of understanding among incarcerated veterans about the availability of resources to them. A comprehensive packet of information that can be provided to veterans and their family members upon incarceration, and again at least 6-12 months prior to release, is currently being developed by DOC, the DVS, and other stakeholders. The information package will include materials on how to access their VA healthcare and disability compensation benefits, educational benefits, VWWP representatives, Veterans' Employment Representatives at the VEC, and any information about veteran support groups available to them during incarceration.

The Benefits Services Section of DVS assists Virginia's veterans in gaining access to the benefits to which they are entitled through their service and sacrifice. The Benefits Services

³⁵ DOC, Research & Management Services, RMS inmate Data File, 12/03/2010. Note: Those who did not self-identify as a Veteran, i.e. status unknown, are classified in the same category as those who identified as having not served in the military 34,993 of 37,384 inmates (93.6%).

³⁶ Noonan, M.E. & Mumola, C.J. (2007). Veterans in state and federal prison, 2004. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report (Report No. NCJ-217199). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

Section operates 20 field offices across the Commonwealth: Accomac, Alexandria, Big Stone Gap, Bristol, Cedar Bluff, Charlottesville, Danville, Front Royal, Hampton, Lynchburg, Portsmouth, Quantico, Roanoke, South Hill, Staunton, Tidewater and Wytheville, plus offices co-located at each of the three Veteran's Administration Medical Centers (VAMCs) in Virginia (McGuire, Salem, and Hampton). The field offices are staffed by 35 full-time veterans' service representatives and 23 full-time administrative assistants. DVS Benefits Services Specialists and VWWP Coordinators have been asked to become members of the existing re-entry councils across the Commonwealth in order to connect veterans to their service benefits. In addition, the VWWP has been asked to participate in the local re-entry councils to connect veterans suffering from behavioral health disorders or TBIs to community treatment providers and community resources.

The Women's Focus Area Committee

Just over 7% (approximately 2,300 individuals) of DOC inmates are female.³⁷

Incarcerated women are more likely to have been victims of physical and sexual abuse and have higher rates of mental health and substance abuse problems compared to their male counterparts.^{38,39} In addition, as outlined in the section on the Health & Family Reintegration Work Group, more women were actively parenting before their incarceration. Thus, the re-entry needs of women returning to families and communities differ from those of men.



Unique re-entry needs and specialized programs are necessary for women

Some of the services addressing health, family, and mental health issues may be found in previous sections. The VARI outlines policies, procedures, and programs during each stage of incarceration, as well as during the different phases of re-entry that are designed to address and improve healthy connections to

children and family. In addition, the VARI outlines mentoring services, the educational programming on healthy relationships, parenting and family reunification offered within correctional centers, specifically for women with fewer than five years to serve as well as during Phase I of re-entry. The COMPAS assessment tool, outlined in the VARI, has been validated for female offenders. The regional re-entry specialist detailed in the VARI will assist in addressing substance abuse, mental and medical care, employment, housing, and child services in communities where returning female offenders are supervised (Illustrations 2 & 3).

³⁷ DOC. Quarterly Report to the Governor and general Assembly – CY2010.

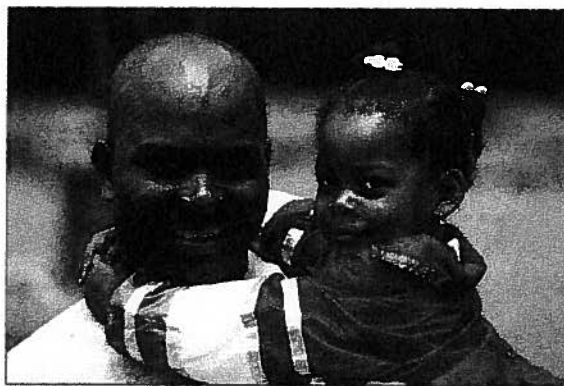
³⁸ Green, B.L., Miranda, J., Daroowalla, A. & Siddique, J. (2005). Trauma exposure, mental health functioning, and program needs of women in jail. *Crime and Delinquency*, 51, 133-151.

³⁹ James, D.J. & Glaze, L.E. (2006). Mental health problems of prison and jail inmates. *Bureau of Justice Statistics bulletin* (Report No. NCJ-213600). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Challenges

The biggest on-going challenge is simply one of magnitude. During the economic climate of the past several years, resources and staffing have been dwindling. Virginia has many strong programs in place. However, none of them serve the entire number of adults who are re-entering communities—13,000 state-responsible individuals and an additional 20,000 in and out of local jails each year. The Virginia Adult Re-Entry Initiative plan includes evidence-based assessments and cognitive-behavioral programming, including on-going support groups, for most inmates. The ability of the Virginia Department of Corrections to shift staffing resources to achieve these levels of services is extraordinary. However, community-based programming, including transitional housing, mental health and substance abuse services, and employability services, lacks the capacity to serve every re-entering offender in need.

An additional challenge is coordinating and implementing evidence-based policies, programs, and practices among and between autonomous local and regional jails. Finally, an ever-present challenge is getting all of those who are incarcerated to become actively engaged in programming. There is no single program, regardless of how well-researched, that will have the desired impact on every person.



Future Directions

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has completed a four year strategic plan on juvenile re-entry. The plan will be introduced to the Council in 2011. Accordingly, this report does not outline the details contained in the DJJ four year plan.

Staff within the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, as well as numerous state agencies and partners, will work to enact recommendations outlined here. While the list of recommendations in this first report is lengthy, the discussions and additional items for consideration within each work group and focus group were much more extensive. Each of the work groups and focus groups will continue to monitor progress on current recommendations, as well as to explore the feasibility of additional recommendations.

Appendices

Appendix A - Executive Order No. 11 (2010)

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NUMBER ELEVEN (2010)

THE VIRGINIA PRISONER AND JUVENILE OFFENDER RE-ENTRY COUNCIL

Importance of Issue

Section 2.2-221.1 of the *Code of Virginia* directs the Secretary of Public Safety to establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of offender transitional and reentry services among state, local, and non-profit agencies in order to prepare offenders for successful transition into their communities upon release from incarceration. This code section also requires the Secretary to ensure that a system is in place for improving opportunities for treatment, employment and housing while individuals are on subsequent probation, parole or post-release supervision.

Each year, approximately 13,500 adult and 500 juvenile offenders are projected to be released from incarceration. The Commonwealth of Virginia seeks to improve public safety by fostering a successful transition of these offenders into their communities; and by reducing the rates at which they returned to prison. In order to reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and reduce the number of crime victims, consistent with Virginia Code § 53.1-32.2, we must ensure that offenders released from incarceration have been adequately prepared to return to their communities. This preparation includes equipping offenders to find employment; providing educational opportunities; ensuring treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues; and assisting offenders re-integrate into a stable home environment. Successful integration of offenders requires collaboration, coordination, and partnership among state and local agencies, community supervision agencies, service providers, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, courts, communities, and family members. Accordingly, I am taking the following measures:

Amending and Renaming the Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy

By virtue of authority vested in me as Governor under Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia, and Sections 2.2-103 and 2.2-104 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby direct the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety to amend and alter the Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy, originally established pursuant to Executive Order 97(October 2009) which is set to expire December 31, 2010. The Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy shall be renamed the **Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Council** with the aim of promoting re-entry strategies for adult and juvenile offenders.

The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Council (the Council) shall be chaired by the Secretary of Public Safety or her designee and comprised of the following Executive Branch representatives or their designees:

- Secretary of Commerce and Trade
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Secretary of Transportation
- Senior Economic Advisor to the Governor
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Correctional Education
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Medical Assistance Services
- Department of Planning and Budget
- Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
- Department of Rehabilitative Services
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Veterans Services
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
- Virginia Parole Board

The Governor may appoint additional members as he deems appropriate. The Secretary of Public Safety shall invite additional participation by the Attorney General of Virginia, General Assembly, Supreme Court, Virginia Sheriffs Association, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, faith-based organizations, and Community Advocacy

Groups. All Executive Branch agencies of the Commonwealth shall participate in activities of the Council upon request. Support staff will be provided by the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Office of the Secretary of Education, and other agencies as the Secretary of Public Safety may designate.

The Council shall have the following functions:

1. Identify barriers that exist in each member's department or agency that may impede successful transition of offenders returning to their communities; and develop and implement procedures to overcome such barriers, to include job training, education, housing, and substance abuse treatment.
2. Improve collaboration and coordination of transitional services, including providing cross-training; sharing information among state agencies; and developing policies, procedures, and programs with well-defined, performance-based outcomes that enhance re-entry management.
3. Establish partnerships between community colleges and the business sector to promote employment and transitional jobs for released offenders.
4. Engage local agencies, community-based social service providers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, as well as other stakeholders, in promoting successful re-entry policies and programs.
5. Submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and re-entry services to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 15 of each year.
6. Meet at the call of the Secretary of Public Safety or her designee and as provided in procedures adopted by the Council.

The Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator, in working with the Council, shall develop a long-term strategic plan for achieving the goal of reducing offender recidivism for those released from incarceration. The plan shall set out comprehensive strategies to be employed while offenders are incarcerated and to continue following their release. It shall have measurable objectives and establish specific outcome performance measures. The plan shall identify methods of improving communication, sharing of information, and collaborating between state and local agencies. Such a plan shall be submitted to the Governor for approval no later than December 31, 2010, and shall be updated by December 31 of each succeeding year.

The Council shall establish work groups and subcommittees to implement the provisions of the strategic plan and other re-entry reforms of the Commonwealth to assist offenders with jobs, housing, substance abuse treatment, medical care, and mental health services, with specific inclusion of women, juveniles, and veterans. Additionally, the Governor's Re-entry Council and the appropriate work group shall work collaboratively with the Juvenile Re-entry Advisory Group established by the Virginia Commission on Youth on improving the success and safety of juveniles returning to their community.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this
____ th day of May 2010.

Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Appendix B - Committee & Work Group Charge

VIRGINIA PRISONER AND JUVENILE OFFENDER RE-ENTRY COUNCIL

CHARGE:

The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council will identify re-entry barriers and develop methods to address them; improve collaboration and coordination of re-entry transition services; establish partnerships to promote jobs; promote re-entry strategies for juveniles and adults; participate in the development of the state re-entry strategic plan; and submit a report of re-entry actions to the Governor.

APPROACH: The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council will make recommendations for more effective re-entry services in Virginia and participate in development of a statewide strategic plan through work with constituent focus area groups and issue committees. Broad input will be solicited from re-entry service providers, public safety professionals, law enforcement, the faith community, the judiciary, employers, educators, public agency representatives, victims of crime, and persons previously incarcerated as well as their families.

SCHEDULE: The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council will hold three meetings in 2010. Basic planning and recommendations will occur in 2010. In 2011, the focus will be implementation and in 2012 assessment and evaluation.

Meeting 1- July 9, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, East Meeting Room
1pm-3pm

- Introductions, charge to the Council, an overview of the current status of re-entry in Virginia and breakout groups around key issues that are barriers to successful re-entry.

Meeting 2- August 31, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, East Meeting Room
1pm-3pm

- Review and analysis of initial report from focus area committees and issue work groups. Analysis of Council agencies' contributions to re-entry initiative. Review of DOC strategic plan. Discussion of input to strategic plan, actions in response to committee work, and recommendations for collaboration and partnerships to address re-entry issues, including jobs. Review of grant opportunities and model programs.

Meeting 3- October 28, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, East Meeting Room
1pm-3pm

- Presentation of DOC strategic plan. Final issues, policy and practices discussion. Adopt recommendations and finalize report to the Governor.

DELIVERABLES: Memoranda of understanding to improve re-entry service coordination and partnerships to promote jobs; a report to the Governor with recommendations to improve re-entry and reduce recidivism in Virginia; a statewide four-year plan for re-entry in Virginia; changes in policy and practice; progress report on programs in Virginia.

CONTACTS: Banci Tewolde banci.tewolde@governor.virginia.gov 804 225-2792
Jane Brown jane.brown@governor.virginia.gov 804 692-0330

**Executive Order 11- Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council
Council, Workgroup & Committee Assignments**

Banci Tewolde, Office of the Governor
Jane Brown, Department of Social Services
Charles James, Office of the Attorney General
Jim Cheng, Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Gerard Robinson, Secretary of Education
Matt Cobb, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Sean Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation
Bob Sledd, Senior Economic Advisor to the Governor
Bob Harris, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
Olivia Garland, Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
Gene Johnson, Department of Corrections
Pat Wilson, Department of Correctional Education
Garth Wheeler, Department of Criminal Justice Services
Dr. Cynthia A. Cave, Department of Education
Jeff Lake, Department of Health
Shea Hollifield, Department of Housing and Community Development
Helivi Holland, Department of Juvenile Justice
Gregg Penn, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Michael Maul, Department of Planning and Budget
Eric Olsen, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Jim Rothrock, Department of Rehabilitative Services
Martin Brown, Department of Social Services
Paul Galanti, Department of Veterans Services
John Broadway, Virginia Employment Commission
Dave Johnson, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
Helen Fahey, Virginia Parole Board
Janet Polarek, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Harry Cundiff, Chief of Police, Bluefield Va.
Sheriff Woody and Sheriff McCabe, Representative of the Virginia Sheriffs Association (2)
Superintendent Ron Matthews, Regional Jail Administrator
Derwin Overton (EO – OAR Fairfax) PAPIS/Non-profit Re-Entry Service Providers
The Reverend Lance Watson, Member of the Faith Based Community
Lisa Costley, Citizen
Steven Johnson, The Healing Place

Members of the General Assembly

- 1) Senator Toddy Puller (D)**
- 2) Senator Ryan McDougale (R)**
- 3) Delegate Vivian Watts (D)**
- 4) Delegate Chris Peace (R)**
- 5) Senator Jill Vogel (R)**
- 6) Senator Henry Marsh (D)**
- 7) Senator Janet Howell (D)**
- 8) Delegate Bev Sherwood (R)**

Council Purpose: The Council has been charged specifically by Executive Order 11 with:

- Identifying re-entry barriers and developing methods to address them
- Improving collaboration and coordination of re-entry transition services
- Establishing partnerships to promote jobs
- Promoting re-entry strategies for juveniles and adults
- Submitting a report of re-entry actions to the Governor
- Participating in the development of the state re-entry strategic plan

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

Staff: Fran Ecker
Scott Richeson
Christine Eacho

Employment/Ed/Workforce Work Group

Employment/Ed/Workforce – Issue I (Seven Members)

- Secretary of Commerce and Trade
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Transportation
- Senior Economic Advisor to the Governor
- Department of Education
- Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
- Virginia Employment Commission

Employment/Ed/Workforce Issue Work Group: David A. Hunn-Fairfax One-Stop ED (Chair); Sophie Williams-Richmond Goodwill (Co-Chair); Peter Blake-Vice Chancellor, VCC Workforce Development System; John Cavan-President, Southside CC; Jim Charapich-Culpeper Chamber ED; Keith Bosewell-Virginia Economic Development Partnership; Don Guillory-Director, Correctional Enterprises; Kathy Hayfield-Director of Technology and Employment, DRS; Tony Cropper-VEC; Drew Molloy-Chief Deputy, DCE.

Staff: Larry Wilder
Tracy Jenkins
Nikki Vaughan

Leadership Team Resource: Gwynne Cunningham

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps, and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Leadership Team for policy, practice and program changes related to employment, education and workforce development as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders. It will be composed of those with knowledge of employment, education and workforce including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 12, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze employment/ed/workforce development activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 16, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Analyze input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – September 13, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Housing Work Group

Housing-Issue II (Five Members)

- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Re-Entry Service Provide/PAPIS
- Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Parole Board
- Victim of Crime

Housing Issue Work Group: Shea Hollifield–DHCD (Chair); Kelly King Horne–Homeward ED (Co-Chair); Barbara Slayden–OAR ED; Anne Davis–HUD; Mark Fero–Office of the Attorney General; David “Rick” Pilgrim–Businessman, Mulholland Group; Elliot Harrigan, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Reverend Dr. David Cooper.

Staff: Larry Wilder
Christine Eacho
Jennifer Vidler

Leadership Team Resource: Jane Brown

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Council for policy, practice and program changes related to housing as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders and will be composed of those with knowledge of housing including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 13, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze housing activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 17, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – September 14, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Work Group

Mental Health/ Substance Abuse-Issue III (Four Members)

- Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
- Sheriffs Association
- Regional Jail
- Department of Medical Assistance Services

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Issue Work Group: Dr. Robin Hulbert-Psychologist, DOC (Chair); Catherine Hancock-DMAS (Co-Chair); Karen DeSousa, AAG; Dr. Denise Biron-Norfolk Social Services; Michael Shank-Director of Community Support Services, DBHDS, Mira Signor-NAMI; Helena Deligt-Daily Planet; Dean Baker-Jail Services Coordinator, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board; Sheriff Draper (Pulaski); Drew Molloy, Chief Deputy, DCE.

Staff: Dan Catley
Victoria Cockran
Tina Cashman
Gabrielle Brost

Leadership Team Resource: Scott Richeson

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Council for policy, practice, and program changes related to mental health and substance abuse as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans. Specifically, the workgroup should develop recommendations that will provide a coordinated and comprehensive continuum of care for those who need assistance to reintegrate successfully back into society.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders. It will be composed of those with knowledge of mental health and substance abuse re-entry issues including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 14, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze mental health and substance abuse re-entry issue activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 18, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – September 15, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Financial Obligations Work Group

Financial Obligations – Issue IV (Four Members)

- Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Department of Veterans Services
- Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
- Department of Planning and Budget

Financial Obligations Issue Work Group Randy Rollins–Attorney & Founder, Ride2Work Non-Profit (Chair); Ann Fisher- ED VACARES (Co-Chair); Mary Vail Ware, Director, CICF; The Honorable Judy Worthington-Chesterfield County Clerk of the Court; Dr. Celia Hayhoe-Professor, VPI&SU; Cindy Holdren-Consultant, US Office of Child Support Enforcement; James Speer-Director, Virginia Poverty Law Center; Penny Johnson-Wachovia; Ken McCabe- DPB; Thomas Petersik, Ph.D.-VACURE.

Staff: Joe Marshal
Christine Eacho
Brandon Lutman

Leadership Team Resource: Jane Brown

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Council for policy, practice and program changes related to financial obligations as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders. It will be composed of those with knowledge of financial obligations issues including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 14, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze financial obligations re-entry issue activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 19, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting – September 16, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Health & Family Reintegration Work Group

Health & Family Reintegration – Issue V (Four Members)

- Department of Health
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Rehabilitative Services
- Faith Community Representative

Health & Family Reintegration Issue Work Group: , Paul McWhinney–Family Services Director, VDSS (Chair); Fran Bolin-ED, Families Assisting Inmates (Co-Chair); Brian Gullins-Male Responsibility Coordinator, Richmond City Health Department; Cathy Hafford-Deputy Director, VDH; Claudia Williams-Family Services Counselor, Norfolk Department of Human Services; Reverend Owen Cardwell-Richmond Pastor; Joyce Minor- Field Director, Prison Fellowship; Sue Kennon-DCE Instructor; John Horejsi-Coordinator, Social Action Linking Together (SALT).

Staff: Laurel Marks
Mark Earley, Jr.

Leadership Team Resource: Scott Richeson

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Council for policy, practice and program changes related to health and family reintegration as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders and will be composed of those with knowledge of health and family reintegration including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 15, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze mental health and substance abuse re-entry issue activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 20, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Commonwealth Preparedness Conference Room, 3rd Floor

1pm – 4pm

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – September 17, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Commonwealth Preparedness Conference Room, 3rd Floor

1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Offender Re-Entry Preparation Work Group

Offender Re-Entry Preparation – Issue VI (Six Members)

- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Correctional Education
- Person Previously Incarcerated

Offender Re-Entry Preparation Issue Work Group Scott Richeson-Director of Program, DOC (Chair); Lisa Stapleton-Chief, District 36 P&P Alexandria (Co-Chair); Teresa Birkhead-Career Readiness Certification Assessor, Sussex II; Dennis Townsend-Powhatan Counselor; Christine Eacho-Re-Entry Manager, DOC; Sandra Brant-ED, Step-Up Norfolk; Gary Clore-Manager, Gang Unit DOC; Drew Molloy-Chief Deputy, DCE; Eric Olsen, DPOR; Sheriff James Brown, Charlottesville; Mindy Grizzard Applewhite-Senior Probation/Parole Officer-Gang Unit, Richmond.

Staff: Mark Earley, Jr.
Christine Eacho

Leadership Team Resource: Gwynne Cunningham

CHARGE: Identify re-entry barriers, service gaps and make recommendations to the Re-Entry Council for policy, practice and program changes related to re-entry preparation as they apply to all those incarcerated and include specific recommendations related to women and veterans.

APPROACH: Workgroup will focus on re-entry barriers for all offenders. It will be composed of those with knowledge of re-entry preparation including academics, practitioners, service providers, business/community leaders, victims of crime and persons previously incarcerated. The work group will meet three times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year three of the re-entry initiative the committee will be invited to participate in two feedback sessions on implementation of Council recommendations adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – July 16, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous committee and analyze mental health and substance abuse re-entry issue activities and accomplishments completed and re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 23, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – September 20, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
1pm – 4pm

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Women's Focus Area Committee

Women's Focus Area Committee: Kari Galloway-Guest House, Alexandria (Chair); Jessica Lee-Sr. Counselor, Brunswick Women's Pre-Release Center (Co-Chair); Martha Rollins-Boaz & Ruth; Mary Basten-Chief, Probation and Parole District (Lynchburg); Vickie Johnson Scott-Region Director, VDSS; Pat Henfling-Health Educator/Mentor; Vanessa Crawford-Sheriff, Petersburg; Dr. Kathleen Kenney-Former Director of Prison Ministry, Diocese of Richmond; Randy Myers-Chaplain Services of Virginia; Doc Bass.

Staff: Christine Eacho
Mary Beth Brandl

Leadership Team Resources: Scott Richeson
Wendy Hobbes

CHARGE: Examine unique re-entry issues related to re-entry of women to the community. Identify barriers, challenges, service gaps and resources for the constituent group for referral to the Leadership Team and workgroups in developing the statewide re-entry plan. Solicit direct input from incarcerated and previously incarcerated women to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations.

APPROACH: The Re-Entry Focus Area Committees will solicit input from representatives of the focus constituent group to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations being made. Committees will be composed of representatives from the target populations and from organizations and agencies serving them.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE: The Focus Area Committees will hold three meeting in 2010 and two meetings in 2011. 2010 will focus on issue identification and recommendation and 2011 on implementation. Year three, 2012, will focus on implementation feedback.

Meeting 1 – July 12, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Introductions, charge to the Committee. Discussion of focus area groups unique re-entry issues and barriers. Identification of initial issues for referral to Council workgroups. Determine method for constituent group input and research review.

Meeting 2 – August 10, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – October 6, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Veterans Focus Area Committee

Veterans Focus Area Committee: Martha Meade–DVS (Co-Chair); Jane Brown–VDSS/PS (Co-Chair); John Anderson–DVS; Gary Bass–VADOC; Phyllis Chamberlain–Virginia Council to Prevent Homelessness; Victoria Cochran, DBHDS; Clyde Cristman, Senate Finance Committee; Dick Hall–Sizemore–DPB; Cookie Scott–VADOC; James Temple–VA; Janet Vogelgesang–DPB; Mark Jarvis–Culpeper Re-Entry Council; Michael McCoy–VA Chaplain; Mario Woodward.

Staff:

Leadership Team Resources: Jane Brown
Eric Olsen

CHARGE: Examine unique re-entry issues related to re-entry of veterans to the community. Identify barriers, challenges, service gaps and resources for the constituent group for referral to the Leadership Team and workgroups in developing the statewide re-entry plan. Solicit direct input from incarcerated and previously incarcerated veterans to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations.

APPROACH: The Re-Entry Focus Area Committees will solicit input from representatives of the focus constituent group to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations being made. Committees will be composed of representatives from the target populations and from organizations and agencies serving them.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE: The Focus Area Committees will hold three meeting in 2010 and two meetings in 2011. 2010 will focus on issue identification and recommendation and 2011 on implementation. Year three, 2012, will focus on implementation feedback.

Meeting 1 – May 27, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Cabinet Conference Room, 3rd Floor
9am – 10:30

- Introductions, charge to the Committee. Discussion of focus area groups unique re-entry issues and barriers. Review of Virginia incarcerated veterans profile information.

Meeting 2 – June 17, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Cabinet Conference Room, 3rd Floor,
9am – 12 noon

- Identification of initial issues for referral to Council workgroups. Determine method for constituent group input and research review.

Meeting 3 – August 4, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Cabinet Conference Room, 3rd Floor,
9am – 12 noon

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 4 – October 4, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Commonwealth Preparedness Conference Room, 3rd Floor,
9am – 12 noon

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Local & Regional Jails Work Group

Local & Regional Jails – Issue VII (all Executive Order 11 State Agencies)

Local & Regional Jails: Drew Molloy, DCE (Chair); Scott Richeson-DOC, (Co-Chair); Octavia Johnson-Sheriff, City of Roanoke; Charlie Ray Fox, Jr.-Sheriff, Fauquier County; Dennis Proffitt-Sheriff, Chesterfield County; Beth Arthur-Sheriff, Arlington County; Ronald Matthews-Superintendent, Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail; Timothy P. Doss- Superintendent, Middle Peninsula Regional Jail; Sandra Thacker-Superintendent, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail; Lance Forsythe-Superintendent, Southside Regional Jail.

Staff: Mark Earley, Jr.

Leadership Team Resource: Scott Richeson

CHARGE: Identify barriers, challenges and gaps in service delivery faced by local and regional jails as they address re-entry and transition needs for those released to: local probation supervision, state probation supervision, the state prison system, or to the community with no supervision. Make recommendations to the Re-Entry Leadership Team for policy, practice and program changes related to re-entry and transition from jail to state or local probation supervision, as well as release to state institutions or to the community without community corrections supervision requirements.

APPROACH: Work group will focus on re-entry and release barriers and gaps for all offenders who leave a regional or local jail to community based supervision, a state correctional institution, or the community with no supervision requirements. It will be composed of those with knowledge of regional and local jails operations (including Sheriffs and Jail Superintendents), local pretrial and community corrections supervision, state probation supervision, state correctional facility operations, and those knowledgeable of re-entry from jail to the community. The work group will meet four times prior to December 31, 2010 and provide recommendations to the Community and Interagency Leadership Team for consideration by the Council. In year two of the re-entry initiative the work group will be invited to provide input on implementation of recommendations and in year three to participate in two feedback sessions on evaluation of implementation strategies adopted by the Secretary and Governor.

Meeting Frequency: Four meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Meeting 1 – August 5, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, 1st Floor – CR #3

1pm – 4pm

- Review report of previous re-entry committees on re-entry barriers and analyze recommendations made related to jails. Begin identification of jail re-entry barriers/service gaps remaining.

Meeting 2 – August 25, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, 1st Floor – CR #3

1pm – 4pm

- Analyze input from constituent groups, program resources and research review. Include program or policy resource presentations as needed.

Meeting 3 – September 1, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street

1pm – 4pm

- Begin development of recommended changes in policy, practice and programs.

Meeting 4 – September 29, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, 1st Floor – CR #3

1pm – 4pm

- Finalize workgroup recommendations and provide final input to re-entry plan.

Juvenile Focus Area Committee

Juvenile Focus Area Committee: Sam Abed-DJJ (Co-Chair); Linda Filippi-Executive Director, Tidewater Youth Services Commission (Co-Chair); Amy Atkinson; Lisa Peacock-Director, Culpeper Social Services; Carolyn Ross-DCE; Merilee Fox-State Operated Programs Specialist, DOE; Katie VanArnam-Director of Housing Access Programs, VA Supportive Housing; Katharine Hunter-Child and Adolescent Program Specialist, DBH&DS; Dr. Ned Carr-ED, Peninsula Worklink; Wayne Bennett-Senior Deputy Superintendent, Career Tech DCE; John Crooks, DPB.

Staff: Angela Valentine
Laurel Marks

Leadership Team Resource: Fran Ecker

CHARGE: Examine unique re-entry issues related to re-entry of juveniles to the community. Identify barriers, challenges, service gaps and resources for the constituent group for referral to the Council and workgroups in developing the statewide re-entry plan. Solicit direct input from incarcerated and previously incarcerated juveniles to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations.

APPROACH: The Re-Entry Focus Area Committees will solicit input from representatives of the focus constituent group to assure the experience of those impacted by policy and practice is considered in recommendations being made. Committees will be composed of representatives from the target populations and from organizations and agencies serving them. The input and recommendations of the Juvenile Focus Area Committee will be based on the re-entry planning completed by the Department of Juvenile Justice and the juvenile re-entry report of the Commission on Youth.

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings in 2010, two meetings in 2011 and two meetings in 2012.

SCHEDULE: The Focus Area Committees will hold three meeting in 2010 and two meetings in 2011. 2010 will focus on issue identification and recommendation and 2011 on implementation. Year three, 2012, will focus on implementation feedback.

Meeting 1 – July 13, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Introductions, charge to the Committee. Discussion of focus area groups unique re-entry issues and barriers. Identification of initial issues for referral to Council workgroups. Determine method for constituent group input and research review.

Meeting 2 – August 12, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Analysis of input from constituent groups and research review. Finalize input to Leadership Team and Council.

Meeting 3 – October 5, 2010

Location: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street
9am – 12 noon

- Review final recommendations of workgroups. Provide final input to re-entry plan.

Community and Interagency Leadership/Policy Team

Leadership Team: Drew Molloy (Chair); Jane Brown (Co-Chair); Senator David Marsden (D); Senator Richard Stuart (R); Delegate Ron Villanueva (R); Senator Mamie Lock (D); Delegate Thomas Wright (R); Delegate Keam (D); Banci Tewolde-Governor's Office; Sheriff Michael Wade, Henrico; Gwynne Cunningham-DCE; Gary Bass-DOC; Debra Gardener-DCJS; Dave Coman-DSS; Pat Smith- OAR Charlottesville; Sam Abed-DJJ; Pastor Gray; Richmond; Rev. Kirk Houston; Norfolk; Marcus Hodges-Chief, P&P Fredericksburg; Jim Gondles-Executive Director, American Correctional Association; Dick Hall-Sizemore-DPB.

Staff: Fran Ecker
Laurel Marks
Mark Earley, Jr.
Christine Eacho
Corey Patrick Call

CHARGE: The community and interagency re-entry leadership team will work collaboratively with the Council, re-entry focus area committees and re-entry issue work groups in a review of existing re-entry activities in the state. They will receive recommendations for review and finalization from the focus area committees and issue work groups and will recommend policy and program changes to the Council.

APPROACH: The overall re-entry initiatives will focus on high risk offenders who are believed to be most likely to commit a new crime upon release. Re-entry programs and services at the state level will focus on those who are at high risk of reoffending as this will have significant impact on reducing recidivism. Composed of representatives from the community and key state agencies, the leadership team will serve as the steering committee for the planning and implementation of the Governor's re-entry initiative.

Meeting Frequency: 2010-Bi-Monthly, and quarterly in 2011 and 2012.

SCHEDULE: This team will meet monthly through November 2010 and in year two will meet quarterly or more frequently if initiative implementation requires.

Meeting 1 – August 26, 2010

2pm – 4pm

- Review input /recommendation of committees and workgroups. Make recommendations to address pending issues and outline lessons learned/promising practices.

Meeting 2 – October 20, 2010

9am – 12pm

- Review DOC Strategic Plan. Review and Finalize Recommendations for Council – Half Day Work Session

Meeting 3 – November 1, 2010

1pm – 4pm

- Review final Draft implementation plan for findings/recommendations of EO Item 5. Status Report.

Appendix C - Issues & Recommendations of Virginia Prisoner & Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council

Issues & Recommendations of the Council

Issues identified by the Offender Preparation Workgroup

Issue #1: Exchange of information on individual offenders as they move between DOC operating divisions is critical to effective re-entry preparation and release planning.

Recommendations:

1. Request that DOC establish within each Community Corrections operational unit and prison facility a primary contact for re-entry to improve re-entry communication within the agency between the operating divisions as well as outside the agency with non-correctional community stakeholders.
2. Request that DOC develop in its automated offender management system a re-entry screen that includes—for easy access—all pertinent information relevant to offender release. It should include verification of birth certificate and Social Security card attainment, a post release home plan, programs completed during incarceration, qualification and application made for Social Security Disability and Medicaid benefits, court costs owed, a VA Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) compliance summary; a re-entry case plan and COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment results.

Issue #2: The local re-entry councils are currently limited to a small number of localities and prisons.

Recommendation:

3. Request that the VA Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with DOC and other partners, establish local re-entry councils in as many areas of the Commonwealth as possible to coordinate offender release planning between the prisons and the communities. Continue to support the implementation of the Second Chance Act grant award to DSS, and support the evaluation processes associated with the grant to determine the effectiveness of the local councils, and if effective, explore further expansion in other areas of the state.

Issue #3: DOC should utilize results of the COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment results, along with input from the offender, to develop a Re-entry Case Plan to specify programming each offender needs in order to mitigate identified risks.

Recommendations:

4. Request that DOC provide for assessment and reassessment of offender recidivism risks and programmatic needs by implementing evidence-based COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment for offenders within Community Corrections and institutions. COMPAS has been validated for female offenders in addressing their unique risks and needs. The assessment should be administered at the offender's first contact with DOC, and should be re-administered regularly during correctional supervision to determine changing risk level needs. DOC policy should be issued to delineate points of use throughout the offender's supervision.
5. Request that results of the COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment be utilized, along with input from the offender, to develop a re-entry case plan to specify programming needed by each offender to mitigate identified risks. The re-entry case plan should initially be developed at reception into DOC and follow the offender through correctional supervision. The re-entry case plan should identify long term treatment objectives and re-entry needs. It should be modified regularly, no less than annually, as progress is made or new issues arise.

Issue #4: Use consistent, research-based re-entry programming for offenders.

Recommendation:

6. Request that DOC establish a consistent re-entry programming track through the continuum of correctional supervision that includes research-based programming and services that motivate offenders to take responsibility for and participate in their own re-entry preparation.

Issue #5: The point of highest recidivism is within the first several weeks and months after release. In order to reduce recidivism, improve public safety and reduce the number of crime victims in the Commonwealth, offenders released from prison must be adequately prepared to return to their communities.

Recommendations:

7. Request legislation to establish a re-entry savings plan program that requires offenders to save a percentage of the deposits made to their offender trust accounts so they can leave prison with the necessary funds to meet basic needs after release and become established in the community.
8. To expedite post-release employment, request that the Department of Correctional Education (DCE) and the DOC establish "First Stop Re-Entry Employment Centers" at Virginia correctional facilities. These centers will be used to enhance the "employability" skills training currently offered in the Productive Citizenship curriculum.
9. Request that DCE change its service model to prioritize vocational training for offenders within the last five years before release so that the training will be relevant to skills practiced in the community when the offender is released.

Issue #6: Gangs are present in our correctional system and re-entry issues with gang members involve unique challenges.

Recommendation:

10. Request that DOC continue working with its Task Force and law enforcement representatives to identify and implement best practices re-entry model for gang members to dissuade these individuals from returning to a gang upon release and engaging in criminal activities.

Issue #7: Offenders who are not prepared for release are likely to recidivate.

Recommendations:

11. Make public safety and institutional security a priority, within 12 months prior to release, DOC should identify and carefully screen higher security (Levels 4 and 5) offenders who have good institutional behavior records and who have demonstrated progress in self-improvement, and transfer them to lower security (Levels 2 and 3) prisons to participate in intensive re-entry programs before release.
12. Request that DOC develop strategies and policies to strengthen re-entry preparation and support by involving family members, faith-based organizations and other mentors throughout the continuum of correctional supervision. Different levels of family or mentor involvement may be required at different points during correctional supervision in partnership with local re-entry councils.
13. Request that the DMV ensure that every offender who is released from incarceration has an official state-issued identification card prior to release. The workgroup supports Recommendation #36 of the Local and Regional Jails Workgroup regarding this similar recommendation.

Issues identified by the Housing Workgroup

Issue #8: Lack of information and education regarding the "One Strike" policy creates a housing barrier for returning offenders.

Recommendation:

14. Request that the Re-entry Housing Workgroup make an educational presentation to the officers of the Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development (VAHCDO) at its January 2011 meeting regarding Virginia Public Housing Authority's (PHA) utilization of discretion in carrying out the "One Strike" Policy on a case-by-case basis. The presentation would address the impact of the "One Strike" Policy, as currently implemented, on re-entry of offenders and the unintended consequences including the prevention of family unification and the reduction of public housing options for adjudicated juveniles.

Issue #9: DOC should provide a meaningful discharge housing plan for each returning offender.

Recommendations:

15. The Re-Entry Council support the work of the Governor's Homeless Advisory Council and recognizes the important of addressing homelessness as it affects re-entry. Request that the forthcoming recommendations from the Governor's Homeless Advisory Council, as it pertains to incarcerated adults, be fully considered by the Re-Entry Council.
16. Request that DOC, working with community-based housing and other social services providers, identify "best practices" in the use of individual housing barrier assessments and other models to be used in preparing for re-entry.

Issues identified by Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup

Issue #10: There are limited educational and training opportunities for offenders during incarceration.

Recommendations:

17. Request that the DCE, Virginia Community College System (VCCS), DOC, and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), develop more Career and Technical Education (CTE) and post-secondary education (including higher education) opportunities for adult and juvenile offenders in state facilities. Because this has fiscal impact, it is recommended that the agencies identify what is needed to accomplish this recommendation and develop an implementation plan, including the necessary appropriation requests for future years. Opportunities that can be developed and put in place without additional funding should be implemented in 2011.
18. Request that DOC review its policies to foster greater program participation that does not compromise public safety or institutional security. These policies include the re-assignment of inmates to allow greater access to education and training programs that match their interests and aptitudes; and the allowance of inmates to remain at facilities where they are enrolled in education or training until they receive a degree or completion certificate.
19. Request that DCE expand the number of dual enrollment programs.

Issue #11: In order to better address the barriers faced by returning offenders with limited education and training, additional study and review is needed to address several gaps in information.

Recommendations:

20. Request the Virginia Workforce Council, working with the Special Advisor to the Governor for Workforce Development as the agent of the Virginia Workforce Network, along with the VA Department of Education (DOE), DOC, DCE and DJJ conduct a joint study to determine the various sources and levels of funding directed toward education and training for adult and juvenile offenders in state facilities. The study should also identify available federal and state resources that may not be fully utilized by state agencies as such funds relate to incarcerated persons.
21. Request the Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup examine potential options and sources of funds (including non-profit organizations) to expand higher education opportunities for offenders.

Issue #12: A coordinated and strategic extension of workforce development services by local boards may assist in improving reintegration of returning offenders and, ultimately, enhancing public safety.

Recommendations:

22. Request that Local Workforce Investment Boards and Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) identify in their annual plans the services provided to offenders returning to their communities.
23. Explore the expansion of work release for state inmates, including necessary policy and procedural changes. Additionally, explore the use of local jails for greater work release opportunities, keeping in mind the priority of public safety.
24. Request that DOC and the Department of Business Assistance (DBA) collaborate to initiate a pilot program developing entrepreneurship "behind-the-walls," providing information regarding what is required to start and run a business.

25. Establish a workgroup under the direction of the Special Advisor to the Governor for Workforce Development as the agent of the Virginia Workforce Network, DBA, DCE, DOC, and DJJ to study development of a pilot bonding program and make recommendations to the Secretaries of Public Safety and Commerce and Trade before June 30, 2011.
26. Request the Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup to examine potential strategies and make recommendations to bridge state adult and juvenile correctional facilities with local workforce services in 2011.
27. Request the Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup to 1) review Virginia's barrier crime laws that apply to employability and occupational restrictions, and 2) make recommendations to the SOPS prior to the 2012 Session of the General Assembly.
28. Request the Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup to consider recommendations that would provide eligible inmates, and recently released offenders, with support and access to education and training benefits available through the Veteran's Administration in 2011.
29. Request the Employment/Education/Workforce Workgroup to consider recommendations for offering community-based supervision, treatment, and services at various times to facilitate successful employment of returning offenders in 2011.

Issues identified by the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Workgroup

Issue #13: There is insufficient linkage between prisons/jails and community service providers to establish effective continuity of care and access to services necessary to ensure stability in the community for reentering offenders.

Recommendations:

30. Request and implement one additional pilot site to replicate the Alexandria CSB/Probation & Parole Partnership Program while maintaining current jail activities. Request the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), in collaboration with the DOC, identify an appropriate location for replication and add the site to the DBHDS jail diversion program sites, which will provide oversight, data collection and reporting utilizing the process currently in place for the sites. Fiscal Impact -- \$150,000.
31. Request funding for three additional **Forensic Discharge Planner** positions to coordinate linkage to services and supports. Properly trained and equipped MH/SA case managers employed by local Community Service Boards (CSBs) or DOC who are located within reasonable access to DOC and jail facilities provide the most effective linkage resources. Request that DBHDS and DOC, in collaboration with appropriate agencies, identify three appropriate sites for these positions and add the sites to the DBHDS jail diversion sites which will provide oversight, data collection and reporting utilizing the process currently in place for the cohort sites. Fiscal Impact -- \$350,000.
32. Request the Joint Commission on Health Care or other appropriate state agency to study the financial, medical, and procedural challenges to establishing consistency in medication formulary and access to medications for criminal justice-involved individuals moving through the criminal justice and behavioral health systems, and make recommendations for an effective systems solution.
33. Request that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in collaboration with DSS, DOC, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the Virginia Association of Regional Jails and the Virginia Sheriff's Association, consider the unique circumstance of state and local prisoners re-entering society in the current development of a comprehensive, client-centered human services web portal. Specifically, the system should mirror the current ability to pre-apply for certain benefits prior to an anticipated discharge date so as to minimize or eliminate periods of non-coverage after discharge for otherwise eligible individuals.
34. Request that a committee of DBHDS, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB), DOC and representatives of the Virginia Association of Regional Jails and Virginia Sheriff's Association review,

revise, and re-implement the re-entry MOU concerning the parties' respective responsibilities regarding discharge of offenders requiring community treatment and other services.

Issue #14: Explore evidence-based behavioral health programs to significantly improve outcomes for individuals.

Recommendation:

35. Request DBHDS to establish a special workgroup to examine the effectiveness of current peer-involved programs and training initiatives, identify training options as well as costs and feasibility and subsequently develop a plan to improve utilization of peers in order to support individuals with criminal justice involvement and maintain them in the community. Participants in the workgroup should include the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), DOC and DCJS.

Issues identified by the Local/Regional Jails Workgroup

Issue #15: Lack of identification often prevents returning offenders from securing much needed items and/or services such as a driver's license, housing, employment, educational services, and treatment services.

Recommendation:

36. Request that a collaborative workgroup be created, including but not limited to DOC, DMV, the Virginia Sheriff's Association and the Virginia Association of Regional Jails to review and develop a process in which a uniform government identification can be created and issued to local- and state- responsible offenders.

Issue #16: Due to budget cuts, local and regional jails have limited staff resources to provide comprehensive re-entry services.

Recommendation:

37. Request that the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), in conjunction with the Virginia Sheriff's Association, Virginia Association of Regional Jails and the Compensation Board, study the fiscal impact of placing additional re-entry staff in local and regional jails.

Issue #17: There are many offenders with mental illness housed in local and regional jails who require re-entry services.

Recommendation:

38. Request that the 2010 Mental Illness in Jail Report conducted by the Compensation Board be reviewed by the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Workgroup to identify re-entry-related issues to be considered in 2011 and 2012.

Issues identified by the Health and Family Reintegration Workgroup

Issue #18: Strong family participation during periods of incarceration can lead to better offender outcome.

Recommendations:

39. Request that DOC and local and regional jails enhance existing strategies for familial involvement throughout incarceration to ensure that support is maintained throughout the inmate's incarceration. Encourage DOC and local correctional facilities to develop methods to identify and build upon positive social support from families of offenders.
40. Update the existing DOC Family and Visitor Information Guide so that it provides current, comprehensive information.
41. Request that DOC, in collaboration with other appropriate agencies, provide up-to-date information on Medicaid policies to appropriate staff preparing offenders for release.

42. Request that DOC, prior to release, collaborate with state, local and non-profit organizations to provide health/wellness information to enable offenders to make better choices.
43. Request that DOC and DSS explore updates to automated systems to identify the number of children and the number of children in foster care having an incarcerated parent. DOC and DSS should work together to determine the most cost-effective and efficient manner in which to collect and share data about children of incarcerated parents.

Issues identified by Juvenile Area Focus Committee

Issue #19: With almost 50% of those released from a juvenile correctional center over the age of 18, the path to productive employment is a critical area to improve re-entry outcomes.

Recommendation:

44. Request that the VCCS encourage the Virginia Workforce Council to structure programs to mitigate disincentives when serving youth and to connect the resources of DJJ to the Workforce Investment Act/One Stop Career Centers in support of re-entry of juveniles.

Issue #20: DJJ has limited funding for re-entry services for juveniles upon release from commitment.

Recommendation:

45. Request that DJJ assess policy, procedure, and statutory language that impact the flexibility of departmental funding to purchase pre- and post-release services in order to develop a seamless continuum of services from commitment to re-entry.

Issue #21: A re-entry plan for each juvenile should be developed to improve re-entry outcomes by enhancing the service delivery system to become more comprehensive, continuous, and evidence-based.

Recommendation:

46. DJJ should develop a plan that promotes public safety through the successful re-entry of juvenile offenders. This plan should use validated assessments of risk and criminogenic needs at key stages of the re-entry process as the basis for case planning. Further, the plan should engage youth, family and community support systems for successful re-entry with ongoing evaluation of activities and results with modifications of policies and practices.

Issues identified by the Veterans' Area Focus Committee

Issue #22: Lack of coordination at the state and local level hinders service delivery to incarcerated veterans.

Recommendations:

47. Request that DOC, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and other stakeholders work together to develop a comprehensive packet of information that can be provided to veterans and their family members upon incarceration and again at least 6-12 months prior to release.
48. Request that DOC and local jails, in partnership with other stakeholders, screen for military service and combat stress or traumatic brain injury. This may have fiscal impact for treatment while incarcerated.
49. Request that the DVS Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) offer training to the judiciary, other segments of the legal community and community corrections on combat stress disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) of veteran offenders.
50. Request that the DVS Benefits Services Specialists and VWWP Coordinators become members of the existing re-entry councils across the Commonwealth in order to connect veterans to their service benefits. In addition, request that the VWWP participate in the local re-entry councils to connect veterans suffering from behavioral health disorders or traumatic brain injuries to community treatment providers and community resources.

Issues identified by Women's Focus Area Committee

Issue #23: Currently, there is lack of family education classes for female offenders. The transition process from incarceration to society is often times very overwhelming for the released female offender.

Recommendations:

51. Request that DOC collaborate with faith-based and community organizations as well as DSS to offer educational services that will benefit offenders and their families prior to release from prison or jail. This collaboration will assist families and offenders prepare for a seamless transition.
52. Request DCE to develop appropriate programs as alternatives to those currently being offered by DCE in areas such as computer skills/certification, office technology, database entry and medical transcription. Explore federal funding sources for these services.
53. Request that DCE and DOC explore the expansion of basic computer literacy instruction through a combination of strategies that may include providing additional computers in some classrooms, setting up additional computer lab space and splitting teachers' duties between computer literacy and normal coursework.

Issue #24: Incarcerated women are more likely to have been victims of physical and sexual abuse and may have mental health and substance abuse problems.

Recommendations:

54. Request that DOC develop evidence-based and gender-specific strategies in assessment, case management and treatment during incarceration and under supervision.
55. Request that correctional staff be trained to recognize and respond to behavioral impacts of trauma related to physical and sexual abuse.
56. Request that DOC develop policies and procedures that encourage and promote healthy connections to children and family and the community to increase success for returning female offenders.
57. Request that DOC work with local and state organizations to provide collaborative services to include substance abuse, mental and medical care, employment, housing and child services in communities where returning female offenders are supervised.
58. Request that DOC develop a mentoring program for women during incarceration as part of their case management goals and encourage faith-based organizations to meet with female offenders prior to release to assist with re-entry into their communities.

Illustrations

Illustration 1 - Virginia Prisoner & Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council Organizational Chart

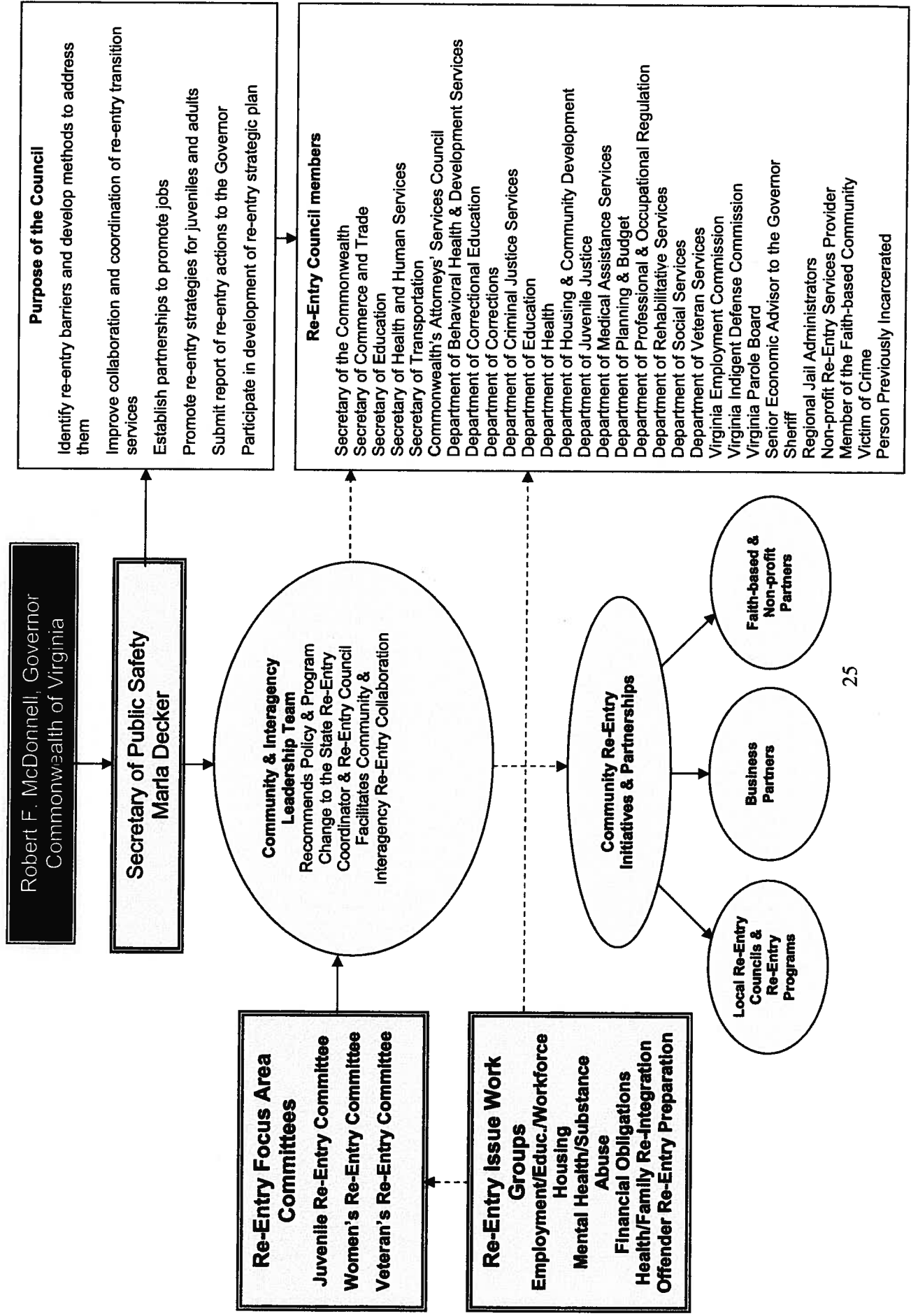
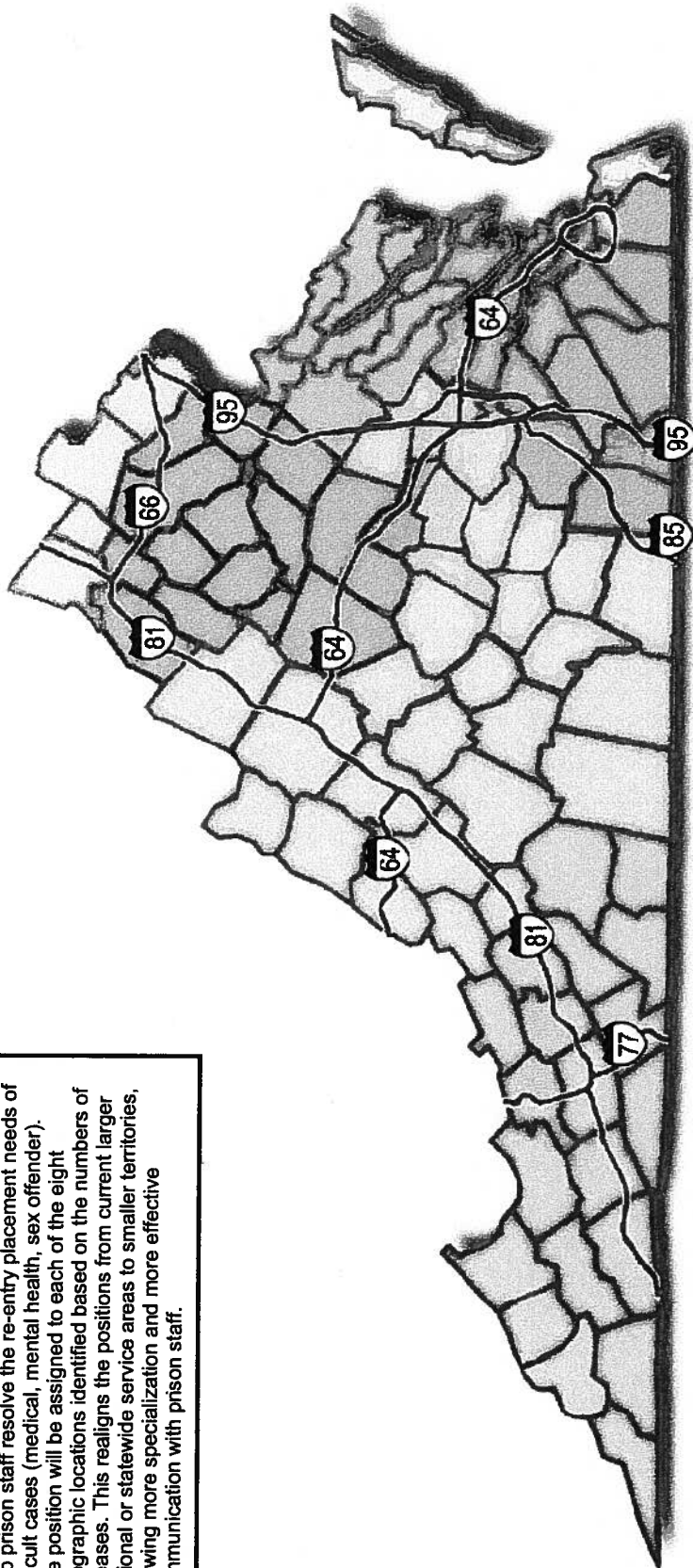


Illustration 2 - Re-Entry Specialist Areas

Eight Re-Entry Specialist positions will be dedicated to help prison staff resolve the re-entry placement needs of difficult cases (medical, mental health, sex offender). One position will be assigned to each of the eight geographic locations identified based on the numbers of releases. This realigns the positions from current larger regional or statewide service areas to smaller territories, allowing more specialization and more effective communication with prison staff.



Districts:
16 Wytheville
17 Abingdon
18 Norton
22 Martinsville
28 Radford
37 Rocky Mount
43 Tazewell

Districts:
8 South Boston
12 Staunton
13 Lynchburg
14 Danville
15 Roanoke
20 Bedford
39 Harrisonburg
40 Fincastle

Districts:
11 Fredericksburg
25 Leesburg
29 Fairfax
10 Arlington
36 Alexandria

Districts:
35 Manassas
26 Culpeper
211 Fredericksburg
9 Charlottesville
41 Ashland

Districts:
32 Henrico
24 Farmville
27 Chesterfield
1 Richmond

Districts:
33 Warsaw
8 Gloucester
34 Williamsburg
19 Newport News
3 Portsmouth
30 Hampton

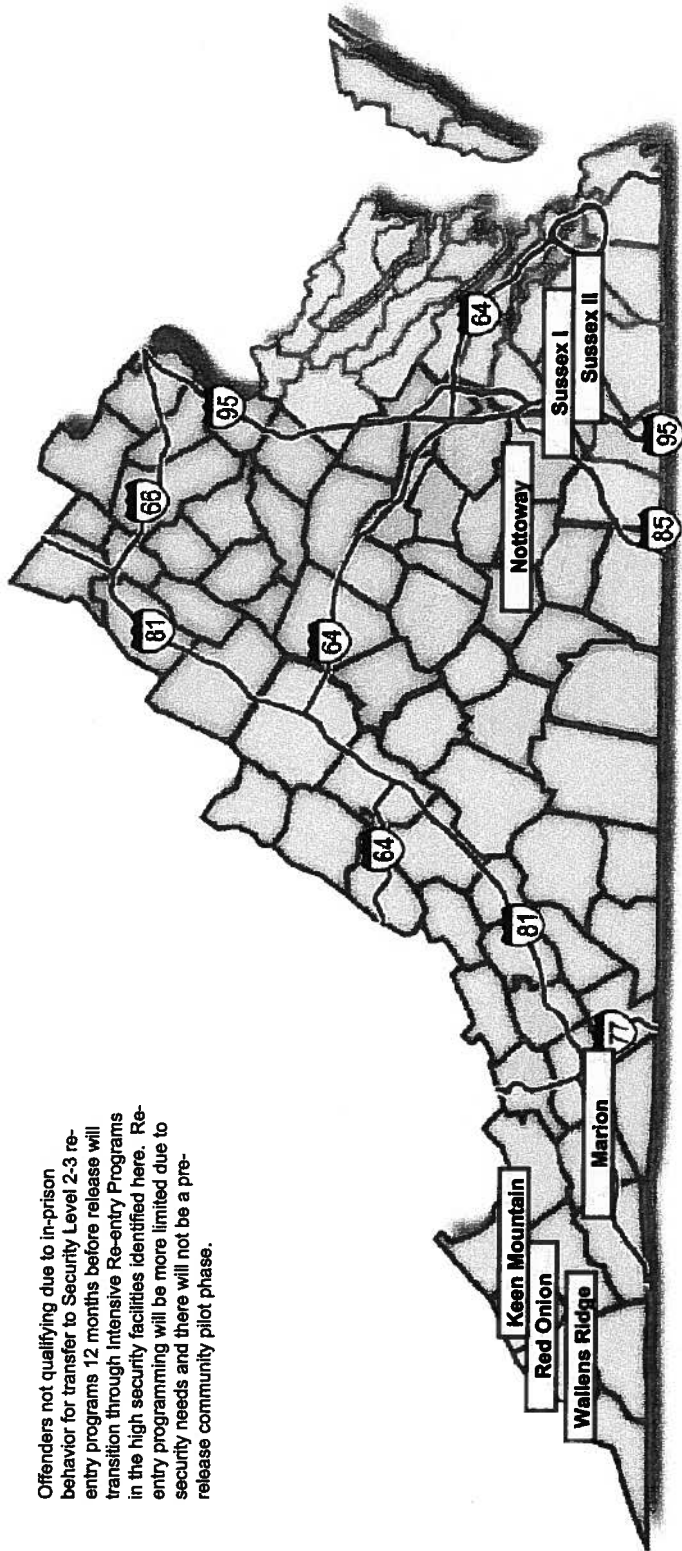
Districts:
7 Petersburg
38 Emporia
42 Franklin
8 Suffolk
31 Chesapeake

Districts:
2 Norfolk
4 Accomac
23 Virginia Beach

Illustration 3 - Intensive Re-Entry Program – Security Level 2 and 3 Facilities

(50 Mile Radius Except Lunenburg and Bland)

Offenders not qualifying due to in-prison behavior for transfer to Security Level 2-3 re-entry programs 12 months before release will transition through Intensive Re-entry Programs in the high security facilities identified here. Re-entry programming will be more limited due to security needs and there will not be a pre-release community pilot phase.



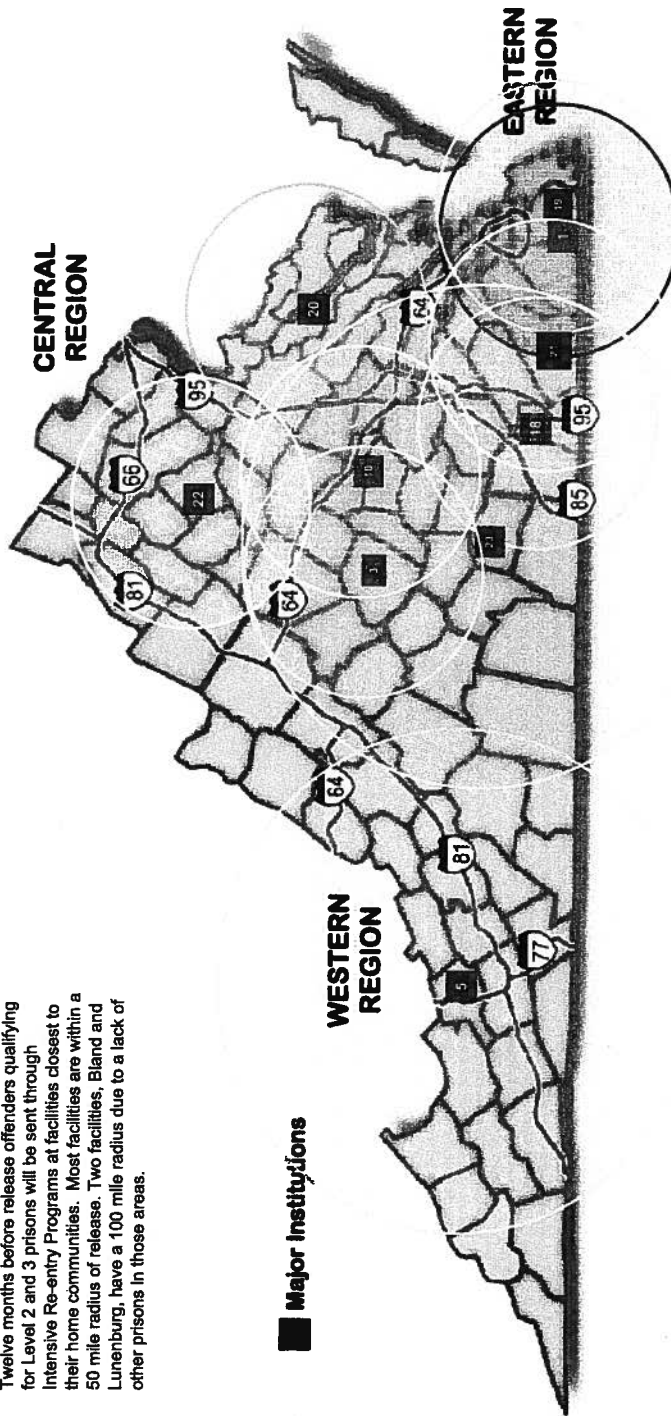
Western Region
 Marlon Treatment Center
 Red Onion
 Wallens Ridge
 Keen Mountain

Central Region
 Nottoway

Eastern Region
 Sussex I
 Sussex II

Illustration 4 - Intensive Re-Entry Program – Security Level 4 and 5 Facilities and ROSP

Twelve months before release offenders qualifying for Level 2 and 3 prisons will be sent through Intensive Re-entry Programs at facilities closest to their home communities. Most facilities are within a 50 mile radius of release. Two facilities, Bland and Lunenburg, have a 100 mile radius due to a lack of other prisons in those areas.



Major Institutions

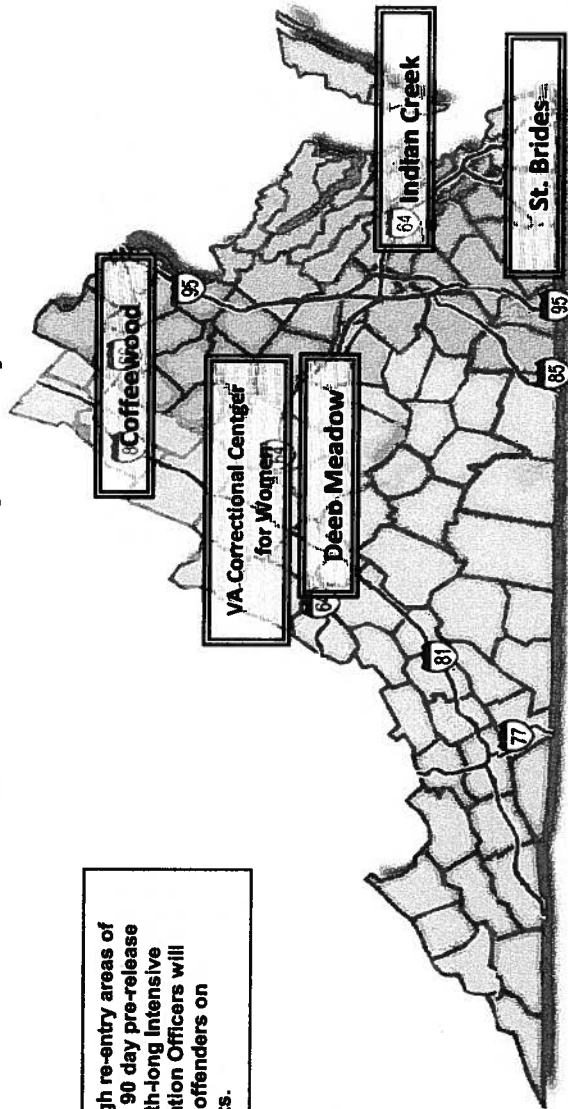
Western Region		Central Region	
1	Bland Correctional Center, Bland VA (Radius 100 miles)	22	Coffwood Correctional Center, Mitchells, VA
		10	Deep Meadow Correctional Center, State Farm, VA
		3	Dillwyn Correctional Center, Dillwyn, VA
		23	Lunenburg Correctional Center, Victoria, VA (Radius 100 miles)
		21	Deerfield Correctional Center, Capron, VA
		18	Greensville Correctional Center, Jarratt, VA
		30	Haynesville Correctional Center, Haynesville VA
		19	Indian Creek Correctional Center, Chesapeake, VA

* Brunswick Receiving & Pre-Release Center, Central Virginia Correctional Unit, Fluvanna Correctional Center and Virginia Correctional Center for Women will operate as Institutional Re-entry Centers.

Illustration 5 - Pre-release Phase Programs

High Re-Entry Localities and Proposed Community Re-Entry Areas

Five prisons located in high re-entry areas of the state will operate pilot 90 day pre-release phases within the 12 month-long Intensive Re-Entry Programs. Probation Officers will escort carefully screened offenders on community transition visits.



District 1	
4 Bland	
30 Bristol	
33 Buchanan	
13 Dickerson	
20 Grayson	
44 Lee	
32 Russell	
24 Scott	
46 Smyth	
31 Tazewell	
30 Washington	
26 Wise	
20 Wythe	
353 Total	

District 2	
19 Alleghany	
3 Bath	
1 Bedford	
26 Botetourt	
9 Buena Vista	
16 Carroll	
4 Covington	
2 Craig	
8 Floyd	
43 Franklin	
2 Galax	
17 Giles	
38 Henry	
95 Lexington City	
49 Martinsville	
52 Montgomery	
29 Patrick	
51 Pulaski	
32 Roanoke	
31 Roanoke City	
25 Rockbridge	
17 Salem	
572 Total	

District 3	
61 Albemarle	
48 Augusta	
73 Charlottesville	
5 Clarke	
28 Frederick	
12 Greene	
7 Harrisonburg	
9 Nelson	
28 Page	
32 Rockingham	
32 Shenandoah	
29 Staunton	
28 Warren	
40 Waynesboro	
428 Total	

District 4	
19 Amelia	
30 Annerst	
10 Appomattox	
13 Buckingham	
50 Campbell	
6 Charlotte	
84 Danville	
13 Fluvanna	
27 Halifax	
15 Lunenburg	
38 Mecklenburg	
14 Nottoway	
63 Pittsylvania	
30 Prince Edward	
3 South Boston	
425 Total	

District 5	
83 Alexandria	
125 Arlington	
Coffee Wood	
31 Culpeper	
220 Fairfax	
2 Falls Church	
42 Fauquier	
65 Frederickburg	
73 Loudoun	
48 Louisa	
8 Madison	
6 Manassas	
23 Orange	
151 Prince William	
5 Rappahannock	
31 Spotsylvania	
106 Stafford	
29 Winchester	
1045 Total	

District 6	
17 Caroline	
185 Chesterfield	
Deep Meadow	
14 Essex	
28 Gloucester	
16 Goochland	
53 Hanover	
205 Henrico	
61 King & Queen	
22 King George	
10 King William	
8 Lancaster	
3 Mathews	
4 Middlesex	
11 New Kent	
179 Newport News	
8 Northumberland	
12 Powhatan	
16 Richmond	
320 Richmond City	
VA CC Women	
8 Westmoreland	
28 York	
1132 Total	

District 7	
36 Brunswick	
9 Charles City	
34 Colonial Heights	
18 Dinwiddie	
7 Emporia	
7 Franklin City	
28 Greensville	
47 Hopewell	
18 Isle of Wight	
8 James City	
78 Petersburg	
26 Prince George	
32 Southampton	
94 Suffolk	
31 Surry	
17 Sussex	
460 Total	

District 8	
28 Accomack	
276 Chesapeake	
189 Hampton	
Indian Creek	
179 Newport News	
460 Norfolk	
22 Northampton	
213 Portsmouth	
81 Bridges	
320 VA Beach	
61 Williamsburg	
1715 Total	